The Rough Guide to the



Queen's Green Canopy in Oxfordshire

January 2022 edition

What is the Queen's Green Canopy? The Queen's Green Canopy – or "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" - is a key part of the official national celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Its purpose is to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee through giving a major boost to tree planting across the country as part of the UK's overall strategy to mitigate climate warming, and to help counter the serious decline in wildlife and biodiversity. In this way it will provide a significant, tangible and lasting legacy of the Jubilee.

A national organisation has been set up to lead the campaign, with HRH The Prince of Wales as its patron. More details about the Queen's Green Canopy organisation and the project are on https://queensgreencanopy.org But this guide sets out most of what you need to know to help support the project in Oxfordshire.

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1 Why plant trees?

Trees can play an important part in 'capturing' CO2 already in the atmosphere and storing it where it won't contribute to global heating. In 2019 the UK's Committee on Climate Change reported that 30,000 hectares of trees needed to be planted every year if the UK was to meet it 'net zero' target by 2050. The **Oxfordshire Treescapes Project** (www.oxtrees.uk) has applied the CCC's recommended net zero targets for woodland, hedgerows and agroforestry to Oxfordshire and shows that we can meet our share, and help the overall national effort.

Planting trees not only captures carbon but also increases biodiversity, and supports the recovery of our natural wildlife. Tree planting helps natural flood management, has an important health and recreation value, and in appropriate locations can help reduce noise and air pollution.

The Queen's Green Canopy campaign is encouraging everyone from large landowners and companies through to local authorities, schools, and community, wildlife and environmental organisations to plant trees in the period between October 2021 and the close of the Jubilee year at the end of December 2022. And then simply register them officially as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

Some exciting tree planting projects are already being planned in parts of the county but we need to encourage many more, especially at a local level with town and parish councils; with schools; and with local groups concerned with climate change, improving local biodiversity and nature conservation; and with those groups involving young people.

The Queen's Green Canopy campaign is not a new government grant scheme. (The national publicity has led to some confusion about this.) It is a campaign to encourage tree planting – and reinforces all the other various campaigns and reasons for planting trees. Groups or organisations may already be planning to plant trees but this is no reason why their trees cannot also be part of the Canopy.

All trees planted between 1 October 2021 and 31 December 2022 are eligible for registration as part of the Canopy. Thus QGC planted trees might have two complementary purposes; one to meet the local aims of those planting them, and the other to celebrate the Jubilee.

2 How can trees be planted as part of the Canopy?

All trees planted during the Jubilee planting period (ie from October 2021 until the end of December 2022) can be registered as part of the Canopy. All the person, group or organisation in charge of the planting needs to do is visit the QGC website (https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/) and 'pin' the location, upload a photo, and give other information about what has been planted onto the QGC digital map. (For personal planting, there are measures in place to protect people's privacy.) At the end of the Jubilee year, the map of all the planting which has taken place will be formally presented to The Queen. A how to register guide is attached as Appendix 2.

Are there any restrictions about the planting? Very few! For example, dedication of a woodland to the Canopy does not bring with it any obligation to allow public access. (Although please note that some conditions of grant or free trees *may* include an obligation to allow public access) The first requirement is that the planting should contribute either to the capture of carbon to mitigate climate heating and/or provide or improve wildlife habitat. Usually - but not always necessarily - this means planting native species. The other main requirement – rather obviously – is that the trees should be looked after, especially for their first few years, to make sure they survive and thrive.

Does the planting have to be a wood or group of trees? No. All trees, whether they are single trees on their own, or in clumps, woods, rows, avenues, orchards or hedgerows are eligible to be included in the Canopy.

What about people who have already arranged to plant some trees; are these eligible to be part of the Canopy? Yes – even though the tree planting may already be organised, it is still eligible to be part of the Canopy.

Is there any advice available about planting? Yes. The County Council has published a short guide called *New Trees and Woods – Ten Steps to Success*. This is available to download from the county council's website;

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/countryside/NewTreesandWoodsTenStepstoSuccess.pdf

A copy is attached as Appendix 1 at the end of this Guide. Excellent advice is also available from the Vale and South Oxfordshire district councils.

Among many other sources, there is advice on planting trees on the *Woodland Trust* website; www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant -trees/advice and on the *Royal Horticultural Society's* website; www.rhs.org.uk/advice

Very importantly, advice on the *best places* and *sites* for planting – and *sites to avoid* – is now available from the **Oxfordshire Treescapes Project**; <u>www.oxtrees.uk</u> and their maps are available through the County Council website. They can also provide information for local areas or groups of parishes.

Also very important is the *type of trees* (*ie the species*) which you plant. Planting locally characteristic trees which are native to the UK and suitable in size for the area you are planting will ensure the best benefits for wildlife and complement the Oxfordshire landscape.

Native tree species have been embedded within our landscape since the last ice age, some 10,000 years ago. They have co-evolved with our wildlife and environment, forging alliances that span time, and as such, they support and enrich our local biodiversity in a way that is unrivalled by 'naturalised' tree species. The two native species of oak support over two thousand species including mammals, birds, insects, fungi and mosses and 326 of these have adapted to rely solely on oak for survival. Hawthorn, common in hedgerows, supports over 300 insects as well as the wider ecosystem that relies on them, providing food and shelter to a wide range of species. Buckthorn is the only foodplant of the Brimstone butterfly caterpillar and Blackthorn for the exceedingly-rare black-hairstreak butterfly. Planting native trees and hedgerows is the best way of fostering biodiversity.

See Appendix 3 and 4 for lists of the best types of trees to choose from. Further guidance is available from the **Wild Oxfordshire** website pages about Hedgerows https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project/ and Trees https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/

3 Trees and how to get them

Community groups and schools often ask where they can get trees. What is the answer? Various partner charities of the Queen's Green Canopy have schemes to give trees free of charge to voluntary organisations, local groups and schools. Others can make grants available.

Free Trees

There are three main schemes providing free trees for schools. They are run by *The Conservation Volunteers* (TCV), the *Tree Council*, and the *Woodland Trust*.

The Conservation Volunteers (TVC) scheme, called "*I DIG TREES*" is explained on their website; https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees

The trees are available in packs of different species and mixes. The tree packs are predetermined with varieties that best suit a particular growing environment but all are recommended UK varieties. All packs come with the option of spiral guards (60cm x 50mm dia.) and supporting canes (90cm 12/14lbs) and are packaged in forestry co-extruded bags. The choices are explained on the website and the application form is easy to navigate and complete.

Another option currently available is the **Tree Council's** scheme to provide free orchard and hedgerow trees for schools. The Tree Council website is excellent and well worth visiting for advice. More information about this scheme is available on their website;

https://treecouncil.org.uk/schools-and-education/

Finally the **Woodland Trust** scheme is explained on their website;

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/QGC

They have a large scale operation to supply trees for schools, sending out trees twice a year, every March and November. Please note, however, that applications for the March delivery have now closed. Applications for the November 2022 delivery will open in a few weeks' time. When the applications do open they have to be made online, at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees.

Lots of schools have found the Woodland Trust scheme very easy to use. Trees are available in packs of 15, 30, 105 or 420 saplings. Saplings are UK cell-grown stock, approx. 15-60cm tall and come with spiral guards and bamboo canes to help protect against small mammals.

Their comprehensive guide to 31 native tree species includes soil preferences, average height, unique qualities, etc and can be downloaded to help decide which species are best suited to local conditions: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1168/twigged.pdf.

For the free tree scheme the Trust puts together some species mixes that will work well together and groups them by quantity and theme to make the choice a little easier. Unfortunately they cannot tailor the contents of the individual packs, but it is possible to select up to 4 packs from the 30 or 105 sapling range.

Financial help for tree planting

As well as the schemes which make trees available free of charge, other schemes offer grants to schools, community groups etc for tree planting. Among these are the following;

The **Woodland Trust MOREwoods** scheme. This is for larger scale planting projects – of over 500 trees on at least half a hectare. The Trust will help design the woodland, create a bespoke species mix, supply the agreed trees and tree protection, and cover up to 75% of costs. If a contractor is needed to plant the trees then the Trust can arrange this and cover up to 60% of all costs for woodland creation of over 1ha. More information is on; www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/morewoods

The Trust has a similar but more specialised scheme to support the planting of hedgerows, called **MOREhedges**. This scheme includes saplings, advice and funding for new hedging projects of 100 metres or more. The grant covers up to 75% of the cost of planting 100 metres or more of new hedging provided a large tree is allowed to grow every six metres.

The MOREhedges project is intended to create new ecological links with woodland in the surrounding landscape. New hedging must connect with:

- at least 0.2 hectares of existing or newly planted woodland
- woodland via established hedgerows within 500m of the new hedge.

The 100 metres of new hedgerow must be in a single run and cannot involve the replanting or gapping up of existing hedgerows. https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morehedges/

The **Tree Council**, which is another of the main national partners in the Queen's Green Canopy project offers grants for tree planting through their **Branching Out Fund**

This is for schools and community groups proposing to undertake well-planned tree, orchard and hedge planting projects. Applications are now open for the next planting season. More information on their website; www.treecouncil.org.uk

A more specialised programme is run the charity **Trees for Cities** which is looking to support organisations with small to medium size planting schemes. They are particularly looking for organisations and groups in areas which suffer from multiple deprivation, or are outside areas that benefit from national or regional tree or woodland initiatives, and all having a low tree canopy cover. They are looking for planting schemes of between 0.5ha -7ha (2000-30000 native trees) although they are also able to support a limited number of standard tree planting schemes in urban greenspaces. The relevant section on their website is;

https://www.treesforcities.org/are-you-looking-for-financial-support

For more information about how TFC could support such schemes, then get in touch: info@treesforcities.org.

DEFRA can offer grants for new woodland creation through its various agencies, but these are aimed mainly at farmers and landowners. Nevertheless they might be valuable for those able to allocate larger sites for planting.

Here in Oxfordshire, the **Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment** is an important county charity which supports projects to plant trees with financial grants. They are particularly interested in supporting Jubilee tree planting. More information on how to apply is on their website; https://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk They also welcome donations from those who want to support tree planting in the county but have no access to suitable land.

For small projects, the **Christopher Laing Foundation** has a small grants programme, generally of £500–£1000, most commonly £1000. They are only made to registered charities, mainly from either Hertfordshire or Oxfordshire, and applications are considered by the trustees on a regular (generally monthly) basis so the application process is always open. The trustees' priorities include youth and education. and conservation and the environment so small scale tree planting projects especially by youth groups and/or school groups would meet these criteria. Please note though the restriction that the recipients would usually need to be registered charities. More information is available on; https://www.christopherlaingfoundation.com

4 Garden Centres and Tree Suppliers in Oxfordshire

Bampton Garden Plants Buckland Road, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2AA Tel; 01993 85 22 33 Email; sales@bamptongardenplants.co.uk Web; www.bamptongardenplants.co.uk

Bicester Avenue Garden CentreBicester Avenue, Oxford Road, Bicester, OX25 2NY
Tel; 01869 208 160
Email; via website
Web; www.bluediamond.gg/garden-centre/bicester

Bloxham Nursery Ell's Lane, Bloxham, Banbury, OX15 5EE Tel; 01295 720778

Email; via website Web; www.wyattsgardencentre.co.uk

Bunkers Hill Nursery 1-2 Bunkers Hill, Nr. Kidlington, Oxon OX5 3BA Tel; 01869 331 492 Email; enquiries@bunkershillgardenshop.co.uk Web; www.bunkershillgardenshop.co.uk

Burford Garden Company Shilton Road, Burford, OX18 4PA Tel; 01993 823117 Email; info@burford.co.uk Web; www.burford.co.uk

Cassington Nurseries Yarnton road, Cassington, Witney, OX29 4DY Tel; 01865 882550 Email; andy@cassingtonlandscapesltd.co.uk Web; www.cassingtonnurseries.co.uk

Charlbury Garden Centre Witney Rd, Ramsden OX7 3AS T; 01993 670260 Web; <u>www.britishgardencentres.com/charlbury-garden-centre</u>

Cotefield Nurseries Oxford Road, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 4AQ T:01295 275222 Email; info@cotefieldnurseries.co.uk Web; www.cotefieldnurseries.co.uk

Farnborough Garden CentreSoutham Road, Farnborough, Banbury, OX17 1EL
Tel; 01295 690479
Email; customersales@farnboroughgardencentre.co.uk
Website; www.farnboroughgardencentre.co.uk

Freeland Nurseries Wroslyn Road, Freeland, OX29 8AQ Tel: 01993 881430 Email; freeland.nurseries@tiscali.co.uk Web; www.freelandnurseries.wordpress.com

Heritage Fruit Trees Co 27 Walton Avenue, Twyford, Banbury OX17 3JY Email; johoward@metronet.co.uk Website; www.heritageappletrees.com

Hillier Garden Centre Compton Road, Banbury, OX16 2PR Tel; <u>01295 266300</u> Email; via website Web; <u>www.hillier.co.uk/banbury</u>

Millets Farm Garden Centre Kingston Road, Frilford, Nr Abingdon OX13 5HB Tel; 01865 391 923 Email; enquiries@frostsgroup.com Web; www.milletsfarmcentre.com

Nicholsons Plant Centre The Park, North Aston, Oxfordshire OX25 6HL Tel; 01869 340342 Email; plantsales@nicholsonsgb.com Web; www.nicholsonsgb.com

Notcutts Oxford Garden Centre Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire, OX44 9PY Tel; <u>01865</u> 343 454 Email; via website Web; www.notcutts.co.uk/oxford

Oxford Garden Centre South Hinksey, Oxford, OX1 5AR. Tel; 01865 546030 Email; enquiry@gardencentreoxford.com Web; www.gardencentreoxford.com

Root One Garden Centre High Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford OX10 0PT Tel; 01491 836 277 Email; info@root-one.co.uk Web; www.root-one.co.uk

Toad Hall Garden Centre Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3AG Tel; 01491 574 615 Email; info@toadhallgardencentre.co.uk
Web;www.toadhallgardencentre.co.uk

Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley, Oxfordshire. OX33 1JZ Tel; <u>01844</u> 339254 Email: <u>office@waterperrygardens.co.uk</u> Web; <u>www.waterperrygardens.co.uk</u>

Wyatts Garden Centre Hill Barn Farm, Great Rollright, OX7 5SH Tel; 01608 684 835 Email; via website Web; www.wyattsgardencentre.co.uk

Yarnton Home and Garden Sandy Lane, Yarnton, Oxon OX5 1PA Tel; 01865 372124 Email: hello@yarntonhomegarden.co.uk Web; www.yarntonhomegarden.co.uk

5 Useful Oxfordshire websites

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

https://www.bbowt.org.uk

Forest Canopy Foundation https://forestcanopyfoundation.co.uk/

Oxford City Council

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20198/trees woodlands and hedges/1348/oxford itree eco study

Oxfordshire County Council https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/trees-and-woodland

Oxfordshire Treescapes <u>www.oxtrees.uk</u>

South Oxfordshire District Council https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/10/Tree-Planting-Guidance-2020.pdf

Sylva Foundation https://www.sylva.org.uk/

Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment https://www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk

Vale of White Horse District Council https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/10/Tree-Planting-Guidance-2020.pdf

West Oxfordshire District Council https://www.westoxon.gov.uk

Wild Oxfordshire www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Appendix 1 - New Trees and Woods - Ten Steps to Success

It is important to get the **Right Tree in the Right Place for the Right Purpose**. If you are not sure how to follow the steps below seek further advice. Trees and woodland can be introduced through planting and natural regeneration. Following the ten steps will help you get the best result from both.

Step 1: Objectives

Be clear why you want to plant trees or create new woodland. Trees bring many benefits. They are also a long-term commitment. Thinking clearly about the benefits you hope to see in the future will inform your decisions now.

Step 2: Ownership

Who owns the land which is being considered as a location for trees? Does the owner agree to have trees on their land and understand the long-term legal responsibilities that come with owning trees?

Are there opportunities to involve local people in the scheme? The strong connections this creates between trees and people are extremely valuable.

Step 3: Existing Site Value

Is there existing environmental value that could be harmed by new trees. For example, species diverse grasslands are rare in Oxfordshire and should not be converted to woodland or planted with trees. Are there protected species of plants or animals? Could the new trees be located to enhance the environment for example by reducing local air pollution, flooding or linking existing habitats? Check with Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre and other local sources. Check the site at different times of the year to see what already grows there.

Are new trees appropriate to the landscape and historic character of the area? Could new trees and woodland have an undesirable landscape and visual effect? The landscape in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) can be particularly sensitive to harm. Are there archaeological and heritage features both above and below ground that might be harmed by trees in that location? Check and seek further advice where necessary.

For large planting and creation schemes or smaller schemes in sensitive areas such as AONBs you may need permission from the Forestry Commission and to undertake further, detailed assessments.

Step 4: Soils and Site Factors

What is the soil type on the proposed site? This will influence species choice and inform whether special measures need to be taken particularly for tree planting. As a general guide, large-scale woodland creation on better quality agricultural land of importance for food production should be avoided.

Is the location susceptible to frosts, drought or waterlogging? Are there potential tree disease issues specific to the site?

Step 5: Available Space

Is there enough space to accommodate the trees when fully grown, for example how close are buildings and overhead cables? Can more space be made to allow the trees to reach their full potential if need be. Is there a future risk to roads and public rights of way? Will tree roots be a risk to building foundations on shrinkable clay soils? Are there underground services that could be damaged?

Step 6: Species Choice

Taking into account the information above, select and encourage species that are suitable for the location. Native species are of a particular benefit to wildlife. Non-native and ornamental species can be useful in some locations and may be more productive for some end uses. Think about how long your trees are likely to live and how big they will grow. Large growing trees are of particular value if there is enough space. Low-growing scrub has benefits too. Consider what the effect of a changing climate may be. Choose species that are likely to be suited to the climate when they are mature, as far as current evidence allows. Natural regeneration will self-select trees that are suited to the site now but may not be best suited in the future; how will the mix be modified in the future if need be?

Step 7: Funding

Consider how to fund the tree planting or woodland creation and the cost of maintenance during the establishment phase. There are a wide range of grants and support available. Some organisations provide free trees for certain types of schemes. If you need external funding allow time to research available schemes, make applications and receive grants.

Step 8: Planting and Protection

Generally, smaller trees are easier and cheaper to establish than larger trees. Consider whether trees need support from stakes and protection from rabbits and deer (and people!). Natural regeneration lets nature do the hard work but can take longer to establish. Reduce the risk of spreading tree diseases by sourcing trees that are from *Plant Healthy Certification Scheme* certified suppliers.

Step 9: Aftercare – really important!

Make sure that the maintenance of the trees is planned for at the outset. Who will do it, how will it be paid for? Maintenance may include control of competing vegetation; watering in times of drought; checking and removal of stakes and ties; removal of tree protection, maintenance of fencing and long-term control of animals such as grey squirrels that can damage growing trees. In the longer-term individual trees may benefit from formative pruning to create a strong structure and woodlands are likely to require thinning to promote good tree growth.

Step 10: Enjoy

With careful planning and after-care you will have created a resource that will benefit you and future generations.

(Reproduced with thanks to Oxfordshire County Council)

Appendix 2 - How to register your Jubilee tree

- Take a photo of your tree, or if you have planted a clump, copse, avenue, orchard, hedgerow, etc, then a general view of as many as you can see. If you would like to, include people, either yourself or others, in the foreground.
- 2 Go to the following QGC webpage

https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/

- 3 Select "Add your tree" and follow the instructions. The photo of your tree or planting site will need to be uploaded, and some basic information completed.
- 4 Your entry will take a couple of days to appear on the digital map as the registration is checked by the QGC team and the location 'randomised' for data privacy reasons. You should get a confirmatory email within a few days. The photo and basic details (including your first name only or the name of your organisation) will then appear on the digital map.

Appendix 3 Can we put up a plaque?

Yes. Plaques can certainly be put up to identify trees as part of the Queen's Green canopy. If wished they can display either the Platinum Jubilee logo (see the front page of this Guide) or the Queen's Green Canopy logo. There are however rules about how the Canopy logo can be used, and these are explained on the Queen's Green Canopy website.

Simple and elegant Queen's Green Canopy plaques made of steel can be obtained from the Royal British Legion; https://rbli.co.uk/queensgreencanopyplaques or from their online shop; https://rbli.shop/products/the-queens-green-canopy-plaque

Alternatively, local sign-makers can be approached to produce plaques made to order but please note the conditions about using the Canopy logo.

Appendix 4 Native Tree Species List

Alder, Alnus glutinosa
Cultivated apple, Malus domestica
Crab Apple, Malus sylvestris
Silver birch, Betula pendula
Blackthorn, Prunus spinosa
Bird cherry, Prunus padus
Wild cherry, Prunus avium
Cherry plum, Prumus cerasifera
Crab apple, Malus sylvestris
Dog rose, Rosa canina

Dogwood, Cornus sanguinea

Elder, Sambucus nigra
Hawthorn, Crataegus monogyna
Hazel, Corylus avellana
Holly, Ilex aquifolium
Small-leaved Lime, Tilia cordata
Field Maple Acer campestre
Wild Pear, Pyrus pyraster
Rowan, Sorbus aucuparia
Service Tree, Sorbus torminalis
Goat willow, Salix caprea

Appensix 5 Small Trees for Gardens List (native and non-native species)

Goat willow Salix caprea pendula 'Kilmarnock'

- a weeping variety of the all-important goat willow, grafted onto a dwarfing rootstock, which grows to a maximum height of only 2.5m. You can even grow it in a pot, as long as it gets plenty of water. Flowering period: March to April.

Judas tree, Cercis canadensis

- Flowering period March to April

Juneberry, Service berry (Amelanchier)

- There are many species and varieties to suit almost all gardens. Eg. *Amelanchier* 'Ballerina', A. 'Lamarckii' and A. 'Obelisk'. Flowering period: March to April •

Apple (Malus)

- There are many varieties to suit almost all gardens. Eg *Malus 'Evereste'*, M. '*Pink Glow'*, *M. 'Toringo'*, M. '*Aros'*, and *M. 'Laura'* are popular. Flowering : April and May.

Cherry (Prunus)

The best for bees are the single, or semi-double forms; avoid double flowering varieties as the bees won't be able to get at the nectar. Eg *Prunus 'Accolade'*, P. 'Kanzan', P. 'Amanogawa' and P. 'Ruby'. Flowering period: April to May

Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia) eg. Sorbus 'Chinese Lace' and S. 'Autumn Spire'.

- Flowering period: May

Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*)

- Flowering period: September – December

(Rhamnus cathartics

(Prunus spiriosa)

(Vibernum opulus)

(Crataegus monogyna)

(Corylus aveilana)

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