

JULY 2020

NEWSLETTER

BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

Tree Map - how we've helped

Some of us have been out walking with a purpose - looking at possible future sites for planting trees to help air pollution, lessen flooding and provide wildlife habitat. We looked at nine "hot spots" where computer mapping tried to indicate the right trees in the right places for the right purpose. This Bridport Tree Map - which covers areas beyond Beaminster and up to Lyme Regis, too - is being organised by Bridport Town Council and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). By the end of July it will be amended before going out to consultation again.

We found that some hillside areas marked for planting for wildlife were in fact already supporting some trees - and we recommended they should be left mostly alone - i.e. rewilding! Other areas to plant to prevent flooding were alongside the river Brit but already used for hay meadows and horses - and we looked at a couple of other areas which we agreed would be ideal for tree planting. But the big question remains - what incentives will there be for landowners to plant trees? The Tree Map, when it reaches its final form, is only an indicator - including indicating areas high on the coast line above cliffs which are regarded as a wonderful amenity best left without trees. Planting thousands more trees locally remains a goal rather a practicality for the time being. Thanks to all who helped look at the suggested hot spots - and watch this space!

Meanwhile we are looking for smaller areas to plant in and around town. Do you know an area the size of a tennis court, for example? A bit of public land which you would be prepared to nominate and become involved in? We at Bridport Tree Planting already have spotted such areas - strips near the Brit and Asker, a couple of council-owned verges, land where planting was unfinished along a new cycle track. Please send your suggestions to me to be processed. We can then enter into discussions with parishes and councils.



Here is the tractor cutting Asker Meadows in late June - and sparing our saplings! Thanks Wendy Cutts for "supervising" and John Hinsley for marking out. Our saplings continue to do well in the Meadows. Have you seen the bee area? The bees are: well, busy.

MISSION STATEMENT - we now have one! This one-page document sets out our aims and procedures. Please ask if you want to see it.

Here is a link to the Dorset Council guidance on tree planting - very similar to the approach we are trying to adopt.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-emergency/documents/dorset-council-tree-planting-checklist-2020-compressed-1.pdf>

Our tree stocks: We have ordered from the Woodland Trust 420 more saplings for the autumn/winter planting season and these will go into our new tree nursery in Riverside Gardens. There will be Wild wood x 210 saplings, Autumn colour x 105, Wild harvest x 105. The WT website has all the species details.



And we are currently holding about 230 saplings in two gardens in Bothenhampton and these have priority for planting in the autumn. Here are four photos above showing some of them. HAZEL, CRAB APPLE, GOAT WILLOW, HAWTHORN, BIRCH, HOLLY. It would really help if you could think if you require any of these trees - we have other species too ...and let us know or perhaps if you know of someone else who might want to plant them.



A couple of brief notes: **Free Tree Guards** - we came across someone who is giving away tree guards in bulk. Contact us. We continue to spread the word about **thousands of oak saplings** which were going to be incinerated and must find a home in the autumn. Very cheap! They'd be too big for central Bridport but landowners out in the hills?



Lastly, the national picture. Here's a note from Emi Murphy, Trees Campaigner for Friends of the Earth.

“The government has revealed its new England Tree Strategy – and it’s a totally inadequate response to the climate and nature emergency.

Instead of setting an ambitious target to bring back our lost trees, the draft strategy fails to set any tree target for England. At best the plans would increase woodland cover from 10% to just 12% by 2050. Compare that to an EU average of 38% and you can see why we’re not impressed.

The good news is that the government is consulting on this draft strategy before it’s finalised. And that means that you, me, climate scientists and nature experts still have a chance to demand a stronger target.

We need to put as much public pressure on the government as possible – so we’ve created a template submission to the consultation for you, which you can personalise to have extra impact if you like. Do you have a couple of minutes to have your say?”

To have your say and learn more, please go to

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/trees>



Joe Hackett - Bridport Tree Planting Co-Ordinator