

East Devon District Council Woodland Planting Scheme 2022-2024

Part of The Emergency Tree Fund led by Devon County Council, with Funding from The Woodland Trust

Vision

To expand and create new areas of locally important woodland, particularly mixed oak/birch broadleaved woodland, and improve habitat provision for a range of characteristic plants and animals, including those highlighted in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan. In connection with other landscape recovery projects, East Devon District Council's woodland planting scheme will form a comprehensive network of habitats, corridors and stepping-stones, which allow for the movement of wildlife. Tree planting will be focused at edges and areas less suitable for recreational activities, maximising ecosystem services and creating new and varied spaces for people, without inhibiting existing functions. Over time new woodland areas will combine with increased areas of hedging, wetland and species-rich grassland to create a mosaic of habitats, with a multitude of benefits for people, wildlife and climate change mitigation.

Primary Objectives:

Nature Recovery

To create a variety of new native broadleaved woodland pockets, which alongside increased scrub and species-rich grassland, provide valuable habitats for a range of urban and rural wildlife. Over time, this will achieve an interconnected network of woodlands, which provide shelter, food and nesting opportunities and allow for the movement of wildlife between existing fragmented green spaces.

Climate Change Mitigation

To plant over 2000 trees and create new areas of mixed native broadleaved woodland on existing amenity grass and species-poor grassland, and therefore improve the potential for climate change mitigation within East Devon's green spaces. Increasing carbon sequestration through tree planting, as well as future adaptation: prevention of soil erosion; reduced water run-off; buffering high-winds; shading and cooling; and improving water quality.

People

To provide the people of East Devon with a greater opportunity to engage and connect with nature within urban green spaces. Additionally, to create more comfortable, sheltered spaces through the planting of woodland buffers along green spaces edges.