



Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

14/11/2025

North Northamptonshire Council Tree Planting Update:

- 🌳 This year we are partnering with [Carbon Footprint](#) who are providing us with free trees to plant in our Country Parks, Parks and Woodlands. Carbon footprint also support corporate groups who would like to plant trees and we had our first tree planting session in October.
- 🌳 We are offering support to local Schools who are interested in tree planting in their grounds. We can offer free trees and tree planting guidance. We are already working with Isebrook School in Kettering to plant a new hedge and orchard in their Forest School area.
- 🌳 We are continuing to support Parish Councils with their Nature Recovery plans. We are also offering support to Parish Councils who wish to plant trees on their land by providing free trees and guidance.
- 🌳 To expand our Tree Bank we have been working with the Green Horizons group (a group of young adults with Special Educational Needs) to collect tree seeds from local sources to grow on.
- 🌳 Following on from the success of our [Coronation Community Orchards Project](#), the [Midlands Parks Forum](#) has used our scheme as a Case Study as an example for other Local Authorities to replicate.
- 🌳 This planting season we plan to work with [Wellingborough Eco Group](#), [Natural-Ise](#) and corporate groups to plant more trees around North Northants. We will be revisiting sites to replant where we have experienced losses over the dry summer. Look out for the tree planting dates at the end of the newsletter to join in with planting.
- 🌳 We have some exciting bids in for tree planting grant schemes. We will hopefully be able to announce more details about these soon.

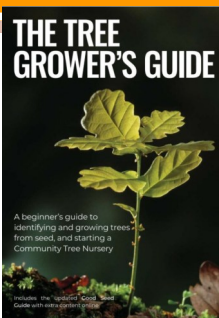


Local tree seeds collected by the Green Horizons group to expand our Tree Bank

The Tree Council Update:

- 🌳 As Tree Warden Coordinator, the Tree Council invited me to take part in Tree Health Citizen Science Research. The aim of this project is to understand what extra support Tree Wardens would require to undertake tree health research. This includes additional training and the possible creation of an app for tree wardens to monitor tree health in their local area. I will keep you updated when results have been analysed.
- 🌳 Some Tree Wardens within our network helped the Tree Council with their Defra funded [Research on Tree Establishment](#). A number of newly planted sites in North Northamptonshire were assessed. You can find more information about this project below.
- 🌳 If you haven't done so already, please sign up to the Tree Councils E-Newsletter via this link: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>

If you're also interested in growing your own trees from seed, [The Tree Growers Guide](#) is a great resource.





North
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TREE WARDEN SCHEME

NORTH
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Tree Warden Spotlight: Kat Bell

Tree Warden Kat explains why being part of the Tree Warden Network is important to her and tells us more about the work she's been doing over the summer:

If I had my young adult years to do over-- to have the opportunity to make different choices at the age when your decisions determine your life--I would choose to place myself in wildlife more often. I grew up in a concrete environment in sub-urban America, and we had a single woodland reserve a short drive from home which I had the occasion to visit a few times as a child. In my adolescence, I made a point to escape to it regularly, to find shelter under the tree canopy and comfort in gentle bird song. I knew somewhere in the back of my mind that the tranquillity of this place would both ground me and lift me up, bring me back from whatever emotion or thought was overwhelming me at the time. It was an instinct to seek this solitude. I never gave it much thought then, but as I aged I grew to understand the immense health benefits of being in nature. I sought to create opportunities to immerse myself in forests, mountains, and lakeland where I could remind myself of the vast, colorful and wonder-filled world outside of human-made civilization. I still seek those moments, and I feel so privileged now to live in a part of the world where nature is cherished and honoured.

Over the past couple of years I decided to become a tree warden for North Northamptonshire, as well as a volunteer with my local branch of the Wildlife Trust, so I could surround myself with wildlife and also be part of community efforts to preserve it. I'm thankful to the council for giving me the opportunity to receive the LANTRA Basic Tree Survey and Inspection certification, and I was pleased to be able to put that knowledge into practice during this year's Tree Establishment Monitoring research project sponsored by the Tree Council. Through this project, volunteers up and down Britain collected data to record the survival and establishment rates of trees at over 200 sites across the country. I had two sites in Desborough to survey following 1500 tree plantings done the previous winter. A dry spring had made growing conditions difficult, and one site had sadly been vandalised. Nonetheless, to find a number of young trees thriving despite the odds was satisfying. The experience gave me a sense of connection to the site and to the broader purpose of expanding and sustaining Britain's woodlands, and I look forward to the next round of surveys.

If I had my young adult years to do over, this is what I would choose to do more of, to learn more about, to be part of. To be a warden of the environment--this immense support network for our physical, emotional, economic, social and spiritual well-being-- is life validating, far more so than sitting at a desk behind a computer all day. My small sacrifice of time gives back one-hundred fold: it sustains life for nature, for my community, and for me.



Two saplings recorded by Kat in Desborough, growing against the odds after a very dry summer.



Tree Warden Spotlight: Sarah Pearson

Sarah, a Tree Warden for Wellingborough has given us an insight into her work over the summer focussing on tree health and establishment:

At the end of July I attended a day at the University of Leicester Botanic Gardens, organised by the Tree Council. It was all about Tree Pests and Diseases and we the attendees all learnt a lot, but actually the day was more about the Tree Council staff learning from us, about our level of knowledge of tree health and our attitudes towards reporting sick trees etc. It was a very enjoyable day, in beautiful surroundings and I look forward to seeing the citizen science project that results from it in the future.

Also during the summer I took part in the Tree Council's Tree Establishment Monitoring survey. The online training was very helpful, and if anyone is considering joining in in the future, I'd recommend it. I surveyed 2 areas of several hundred recently planted whips in Wellingborough, surveying approximately 75 trees on each site. The actual monitoring of each tree was done via an app, which simplified the process a lot. Predictably many of the young whips had suffered or died from the prolonged drought this summer, but others still looked healthy. Hopefully this monitoring will provide us with clues as to why some flourish and others fail.

Some of the wildlife Sarah spotted whilst out monitoring in Croyland Park Wellingborough:



Looking to the Future

Upcoming tree planting dates:

- * Corby Tiny Forest—Saturday 22nd November 2025
- * Kettering Woodland Planting—Saturday 13th December 2025
- * Kilborn Park Wellingborough—Saturday 20th December 2025
- * Croyland Park Wellingborough—Saturday 17th January 2026
- * Swanspool Gardens Wellingborough—Saturday 21st February 2026

If you are interested in any of these events, please let me know and I can share more details.

- 🌳 If you would like to get involved with or want to learn more about anything mentioned in newsletter, please let me know .

- 🌳 National Tree Week is coming up on the 22nd November— 30th November : [National Tree Week - join the UK's largest tree celebration](#)