

# England's Community Forests

## Trees for Climate case study

- Greenwood Community Forest
- Bestwood, Nottinghamshire
- Bestwood Country Park
- Partners: Greenwood Community Forest, Friends of Bestwood, Dobson UK LLP



Community Tree Planting Day

## Community Engagement at the heart of this woodland creation scheme

### Community Scheme on Royal Site

Bestwood Country Park is near Bestwood Village in Nottingham, and the site is a former Colliery which was restored to agricultural land. The site sits within the Country Park which is well used by members of the public and has bridle paths around the site.

Following a public consultation where members of the public and local groups were actively involved in contribution to the woodland creation scheme, the scheme was designed with preserving wildlife habitats and future public access routes as priorities.

Successful school tree planting and community family tree planting days were organised to plant the Parkland areas. With an excellent response from local residents to the events, keen participants planted hundreds of trees in the parkland areas.

England's  
Community  
Forests

 **Greenwood**  
Nottinghamshire's Community Forest bringing Sherwood Forest to your doorstep

  
Nottinghamshire  
County Council





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## Summary of the project

As a site with Royal Connections (Gifted to Nell Gwyn by Charles II), Bestwood Country Park was the perfect site for a Queen's Green Canopy planting scheme. Supported by the Friends of Bestwood, a community consultation was carried out and plans drawn up for a parkland scheme of some 30 hectares. A significant swathe of land was left unplanted for ground nesting birds and the community encouraged to get involved in the planting. **Hundreds of trees were planted including parkland oaks, rowan, aspen and woody shrubs for wildlife including willow, hawthorn and an edible hedgerow.**

Eco Team pupils from Butler's Hill Infants School and Hawthorne Primary school took part in a tree planting event at Bestwood Country Park on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The event was part of Trees for Climate, a DEFRA backed project to create new climate combatting woodlands in England's Community Forests, which includes Nottinghamshire's Greenwood Community Forest.

The pupils from each school planted native trees such as oak and rowan, which will all help to create a new 30 ha woodland at Bestwood Country Park. Each child will receive a certificate thanking them for planting a tree to combat climate change, but also to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Butler's Hill Infant School teacher, Louise Wallis, said: "I just wanted to thank you for this morning, the children loved it, and so did we! Everyone was brilliant with helping the children plant the trees. We were thrilled to be part of such a fantastic opportunity."



The Friends of Bestwood Country Park group helped to organise a Family Community Tree Planting event, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The event was open to local residents, with many tagging the location of their trees planted to the Queens Platinum Jubilee website.

Due to site conditions, the planting of the trees due to be planted by the contractors had to be postponed till Autumn 2022, and thousands of trees are stored in plant trenches on site

School Tree Planting Day





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### Project impact

#### Natural flood management and water quality:

Tree planting at Bestwood Country Park will help to retain water within the landscape, slowing down run-off and helping to improve water quality and natural flood management

#### Public access and management:

The land is owned and managed by Nottinghamshire County Council having been previously leased and is part of Bestwood Country Park which is managed by Gedling Borough Council.

When the woodland is established, there will be improved public access to the area as it was previously leased for agricultural use. There will be a new public access route through and along the top of the site.

#### Enhancing wildlife:

Establishing broad-leaved woodland in the place of low-grade agricultural grassland with open space will help to enhance the area for wildlife and provide connectivity with adjacent woodlands, providing more places for nature and biodiversity to thrive.

#### Contribution to Net Zero:

This scheme contributes to nature-based solutions as part of an array of actions needed to reach the UK government target of net zero carbon by 2050.



Public Consultation

### Contact details

Nick Tucker  
Greenwood Community Forest  
Tel: 0115 9932600  
[greenwood@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:greenwood@nottscc.gov.uk)  
[www.greenwood.org.uk](http://www.greenwood.org.uk)

