

Value in Trees

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
2012-2015



Value in Trees is a project aiming to increase tree cover across Derbyshire, particularly in urban areas. More trees in urban areas have been shown to improve health and well-being, improve air quality, reduce the effects of climate change, as well as being beneficial to wildlife. The project has now worked with over 75 community groups including schools, youth groups, and Friends of Groups to plant trees in Derby, Chesterfield and other locations. The Naturesave Trust has provided valuable support that will enable this project to reach its target of planting 27,300 trees by March 2015.

Community involvement has been central to the success of this project, and all of the planting has been on publically owned or accessible sites where groups have got involved in big tree planting events and are able to help manage the trees for the future. Children as young as 2 years old have been out planting alongside grandparents. Some of the tree planting has been to create community orchards where the trees will eventually be used in fruit harvesting by the whole community.

Some of the planting has been to benefit particular wildlife species, such as the planting of disease resistant elms to help the white letter hairstreak butterfly that is dependent on this species, and has suffered huge declines since Dutch Elm disease spread through the country.

The project has also set up several tree nurseries and hundreds of volunteers have helped us to collect and propagate seed from special veteran trees across the county and so help preserve the genetic stock of some of our finest trees such as Derbyshire's oldest tree: the Darley Yew, which is thought to be around 2000 years old. We have successfully grown trees from seed from many of the parkland veterans from Chatsworth, Hardwick, Kedleston and Haddon. These are being planted out at sites close to the parent veteran or as special community trees nearby.

If you would like to find out more about the project please see the dedicated page on our website: <http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/value-trees>