

# England's Community Forests

## Trees for Climate case study

- Greenwood Community Forest
- Gunthorpe Riverside Local Nature Reserve
- Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire
- Partners: Sherwood Forest Trust, Gunthorpe Parish Council, Gunthorpe Primary School and local volunteers



Children from Gunthorpe Primary School enjoying a tree-planting day in March 2024

“The children had a fantastic day getting their hands dirty and we will return in the summer for a school picnic.”

### New Local Nature Reserve for Gunthorpe

The ambition for landowners Gunthorpe Parish council is to create an attractive native woodland and mosaic of woody and grassy habitats within the newly designated Gunthorpe Riverside Local Nature Reserve.

With community involvement as a priority, an experienced local contractor has worked alongside a zealous volunteer group and children from the local primary school to plant more trees. Tree species include:

- Common Oak, Alder, Aspen, Bird Cherry, Downy Birch, Crack Willow, Grey Willow, Hornbeam and Wych Elm
- With shrubby species including Hazel, Goat Willow, Guelder Rose, Dogwood, Elder and Purple Osier

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## Summary of the project

Working in partnership with Greenwood Community Forest, Sherwood Forest Trust, and Gunthorpe Parish Council the project delivered the planting of over 2000 trees, across 2.4 ha along the Trent Riverside in Nottinghamshire. The planting design included winding footpaths to encourage visitors and families to explore the site and enjoy watching the new woodland grow. A new vehicle access gate was installed to assist with mowing and the future management of the site.

The planting design prioritised lots of woodland edge and a diversity of habitats for maximum biodiversity. Riparian planting along the Cocker Beck was included to help keep the river cool, to assist with flood management and help improve local water quality. Adjacent to the Beck a new large-scale tree scheme undertaken by Severn Trent Water adds to the landscape scale impact of the new planting.

## Project impact

### Natural flood management and water quality:

Tree planting at Gunthorpe Riverside will help to slow down field run-off during storm events and benefit local water quality. Water tolerant trees species have been selected to thrive in this riverside location.

### Public access and management:

The local nature reserve has full public access for dog walkers and visitors. Volunteers help maintain the site and the new connection with the school will encourage more local families to enjoy the location.

### Enhancing wildlife:

Native UK trees have been chosen to provide nectar for early pollinators, with winter food and shelter for birds. Plans are in place for community bat walks and butterfly transects to help monitor the local wildlife within the reserve and collect data for national monitoring schemes.

### Contribution to Net Zero:

Trees are one of the best solutions to the climate emergency. As the new woodlands grow along the Trent Valley, the trees will remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere trapping it in their trunks, leaves, roots and in the soil.

### Engagement, health and wellbeing:

An important element of the project involves encouraging regular volunteer sessions on the reserve (tree and shrub maintenance, wildlife monitoring) and creating a long-term connection with the local Primary School who can use the space for visits and outdoor classroom activities.





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Local contractor Richard Ward works closely with the Parish Council, local volunteers and school.

## Greenwood Community Forest

[www.greenwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk)

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Phone 0115 9774379



New signage welcomes visitors to the Local Nature Reserve

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