



Tree Planting Update

22/06/2023

Transport, Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Gareth Williams



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1. The Bucks Tree Mission

In 2021 Buckinghamshire Council passed a motion to plant 543,000 trees, one for every resident, within a decade.

[Large-scale planting in Buckinghamshire | Buckinghamshire Council](#)



The Bucks Tree Mission: A local response to a global issue

1.2 The Right Tree in the Right Place

The England Trees Action Plan (2021-24) sets out a target of **30,000ha woodland** being planted per annum. [England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101421/England_Trees_Action_Plan_2021_to_2024_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

The Council takes great care when creating new woodland to select appropriate tree species for planting.

Some of the many considerations are listed below:

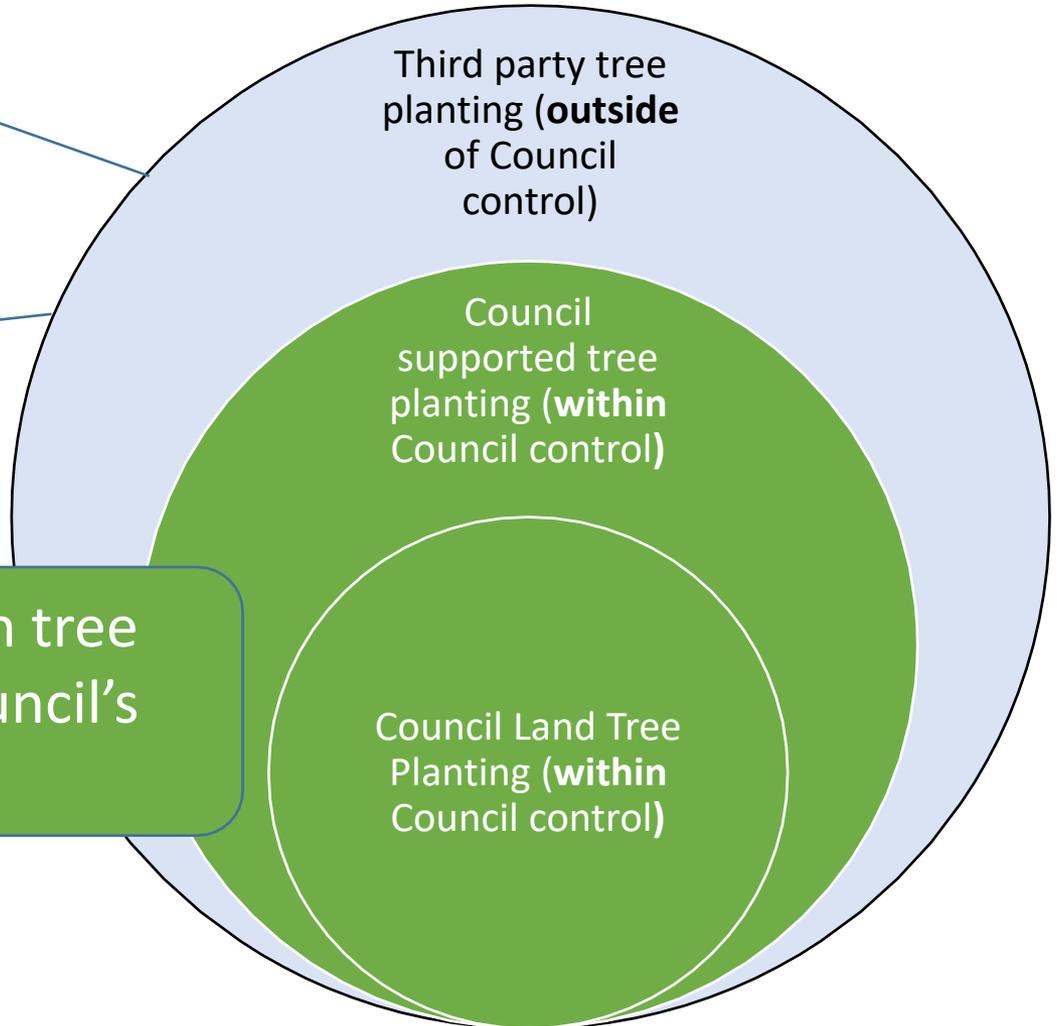
1. Soil type and suitability
2. Proximity of natural water features
3. Biodiversity and ecology of the area proposed for planting (e.g. chalk grassland?; local tree species)
4. Landscape
5. Historic environment (e.g. statutory designations)
6. Presence of utility services
7. Climate (e.g. rainfall, wind)
8. Protection against weeds and pests (e.g. mulch mats, and rabbit netting)
9. Stakeholder access
10. Maintenance, security, and safety
11. Property ownership, rights and covenants
12. Biosecurity
13. Purpose (e.g. for fruit; roadside tree)
14. Conformance (e.g. UK Forestry Standard)
15. Cost

1.3 Tree Planting Update

HS2 contractors have planted 230,000 trees to date

Trees on housing development

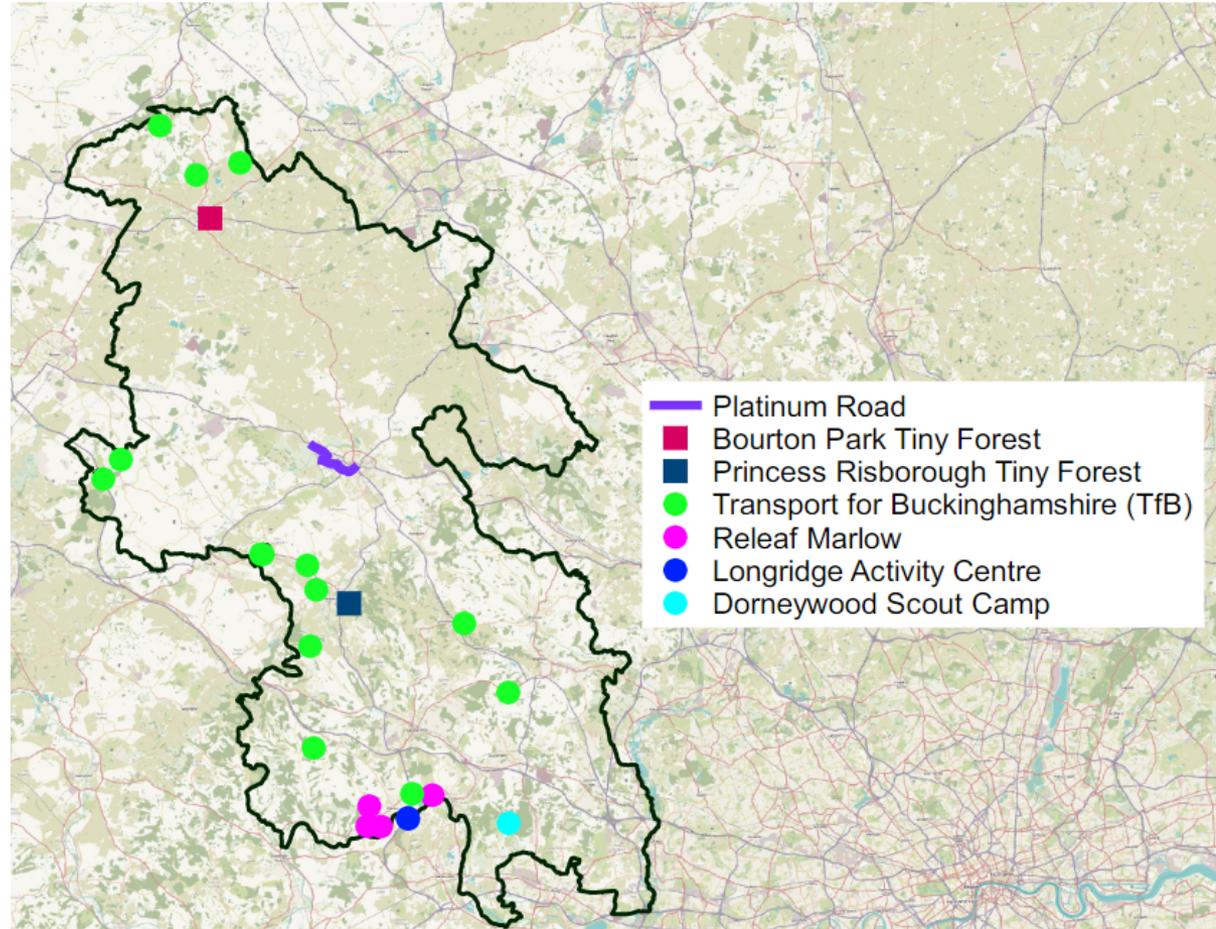
This update focusses on tree planting **within** the Council's control



2. Tree Planting in the Community

Community Tree Planting 2022-2023

We have supported community based tree planting across Buckinghamshire over the last 12 months



2.1 LATF Round 2: Dorneywood Scout Camp



We have successfully applied to the LATF for the **second** year in a row

Buckinghamshire Council secured £184k from the 2022/23 **Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) Round 2.**

One example project was:

- Dorneywood Scout Camp were awarded just over £1,600
- 686 whips and 22 feathers were planted
- Volunteers contributed 125 volunteer hours to plant the trees



2.1 LATF Round 2: Releaf Marlow

Releaf Marlow planted 62 whips, 39 feathers and 14 standards across four locations including:

- Two planting sites on farmland near Marlow
- Spade Oak Nature Reserve, Little Marlow
- Harleyford Golf Course, Marlow

“LATF funded ... planting in several countryside locations close to Marlow in winter 22/23. Buckinghamshire Council hugely assisted each year by coordinating our bid alongside those from other local groups in the county” **Nick Rowcliffe, Releaf Marlow**

2.1 LATF Round 2: Miyawaki “Tiny” Forests

Developed in the 1970’s by Dr Akira Miyawaki:

- Planting a small, dense woodland using fast growing native species
- 600 trees on a tennis court sized plot
- Encourages accelerated forest development and **bio-diversity**
- An accessible and rich green space for people to **connect with nature**
- Developed by Earthwatch LLP in the UK
- Follow up with the community/school to gather evidence and monitor the forest development
- Pictures (right) taken over 8 months



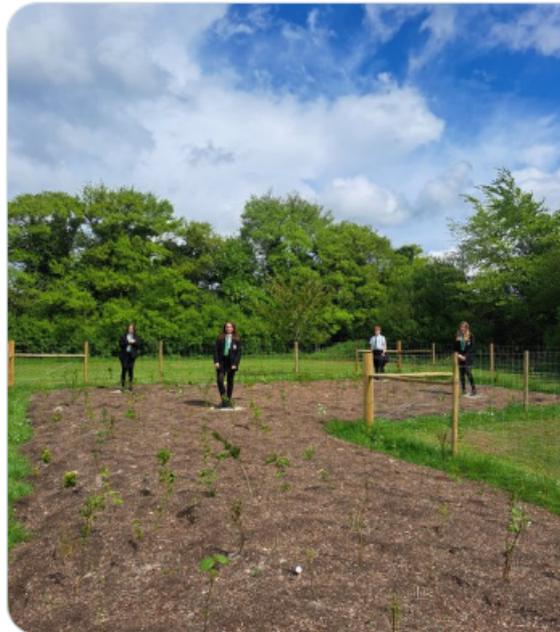
2.1 Miyawaki “Tiny” Forests: Princes Risborough School

- 600 trees planted at PRS
- 150 students aged 4 to 16 involved
- Attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire
- Part of the Queen’s Green Canopy
- The first biodiversity survey was conducted in May (see right)



PRS
@PrincesRisbSch

Today, Miss Walters and the Geography Eco Ambassadors carried out the first biodiversity survey on the PRS [#TinyForest](#). Our tiny trees are flourishing on the top field! @earthwatcheurope



2.1 Miyawaki “Tiny” Forests: Bourton Park, Buckingham

A new Tiny Forest with 600 trees was planted at Bourton Park, supported by:

- Buckingham Parish Council
- Earthwatch
- 65 Volunteers from the local community
- Part of the Queen’s Green Canopy



2.2 Platinum Park Way

The Council worked with **Chiltern Rangers** to organise two weeks of volunteering

- 4,000 trees and shrubs were planted along **Platinum Park Way**
- Organised in partnership with **Chiltern Ranges**
- The Platinum Way was completed in May [Platinum Way Opening](#)



Council officers planting alongside Cllr Jilly Jordan and Rob Butler MP

2.3 HS21K Tree Giveaway Day

Buckinghamshire Council & Chiltern Rangers arranged a tree giveaway day.

1,000 trees, gifted by HS2 Ltd, were given away to over 30 groups including:

- Parish Councils
- Lindengate Charity
- Hogshaw Farm

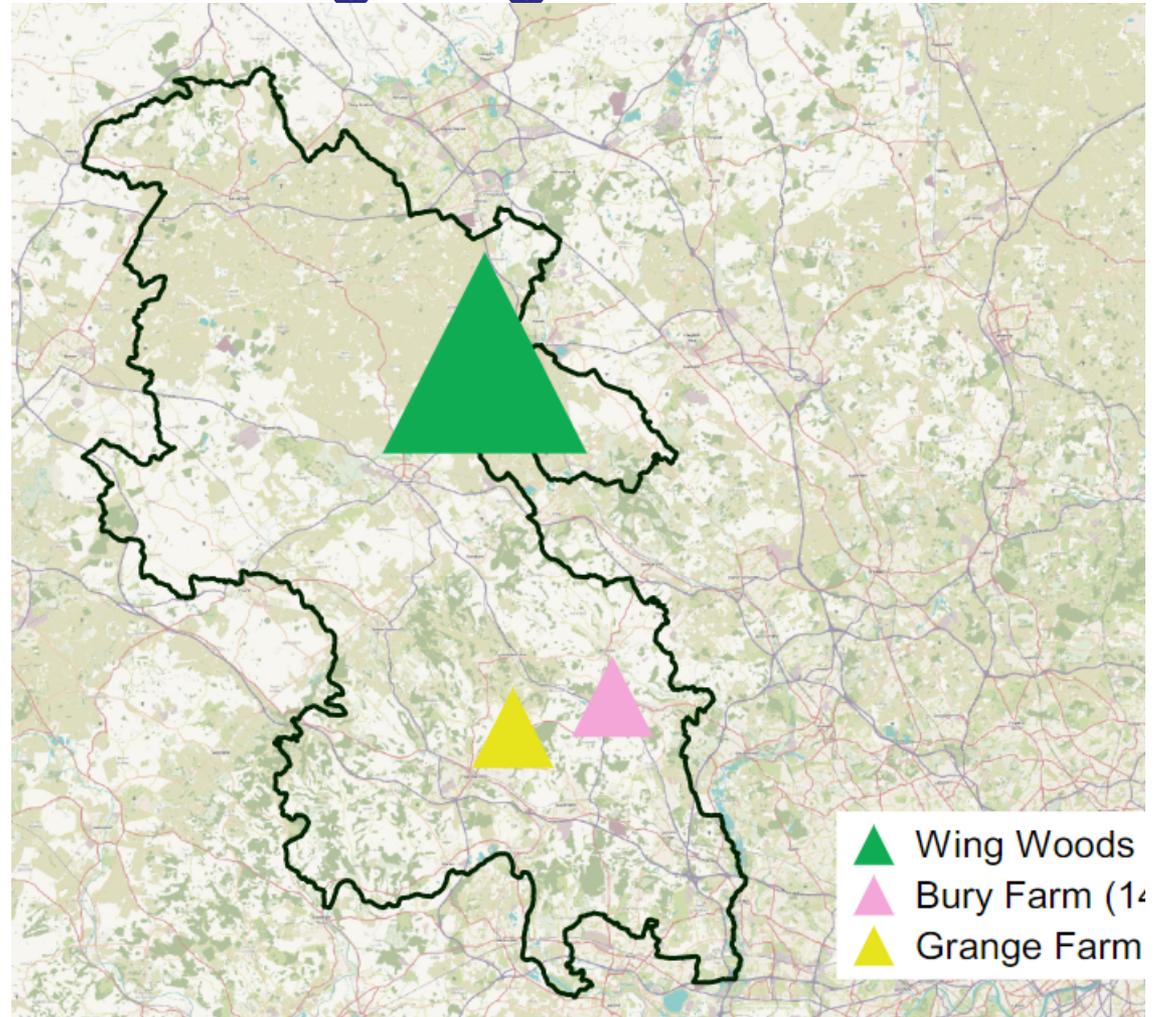


Cllr Gareth Williams, Cllr Nabeela Rana and Council officers

3 Council Land Tree Planting Programme

The Council have continued to progress our tree planting programme across our estate.

The last 12 months have been a bumper year with over **145,000 trees planted across Bucks.**



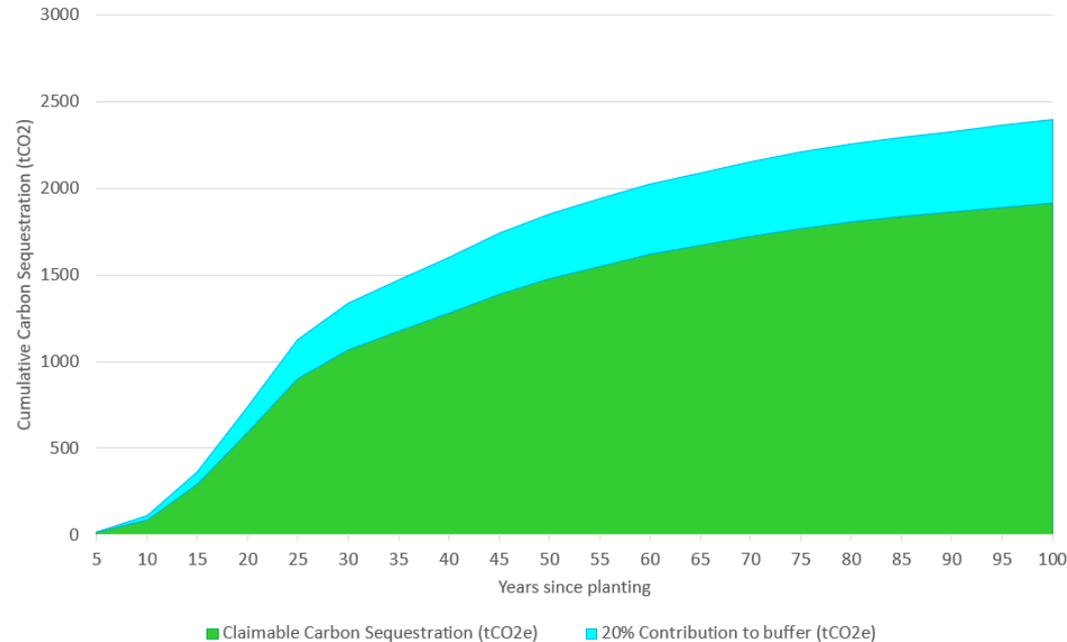
3.1 Bury Farm, Amersham

Under our contractor planting model, a new woodland was established at Bury Farm, Amersham

- New 14,300 tree woodland
- Planting area of 5.7 Ha
- Woodland Carbon Code predicts sequestration of over 1,900 tCO₂e over the coming century
- Secured over £105k of grant funding through the England Woodland Creation Offer



Cumulative Sequestration
- Divided into claimable/to project and buffer contribution



3.2 Grange Farm, Hazlemere

A new 14,700 tree woodland has been planted Grange Farm, Hazlemere.

- Planting area of 5.9 Ha
- Woodland Carbon Code predicts sequestration of over 1,900 tCO₂eq over the coming century
- Secured over £110k of grant funding through the England Woodland Creation Offer
- Volunteer planting day attended by local school



3.3 Wing Woods, Wing

A new 51Ha woodland will be created near Wing:

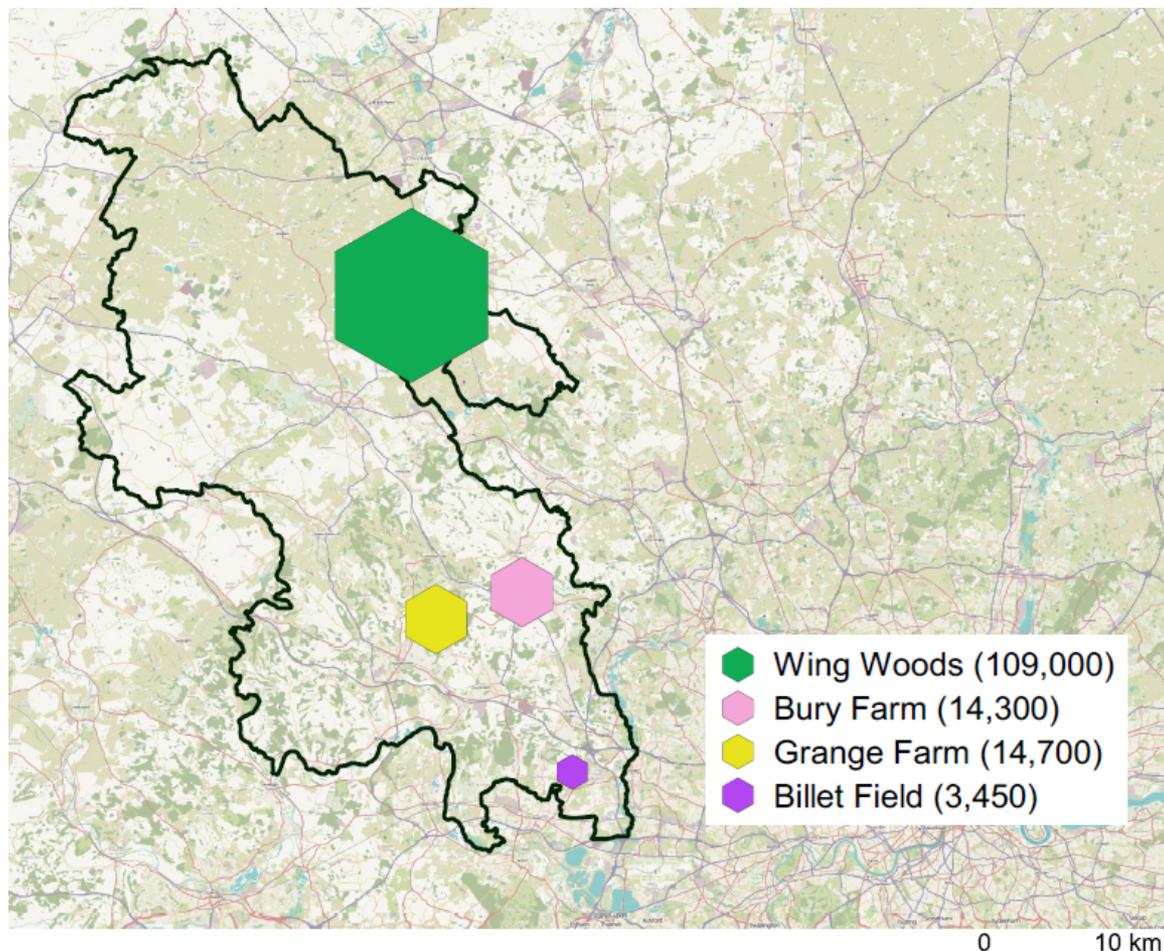
- Under the Forestry England Woodland Partnership Scheme, the Council have leased 51Ha to FE for 100 years
- By 23/24, 132,000 trees will be planted at the site
- Public consultation undertaken in 2022 [Public Consultation Response](#)
- Over 109,000 trees already in the ground



3.4 CLTPP: All sites planted to date

To date **four** new woodland have been created through the CLTPP, shown on the map (right)*:

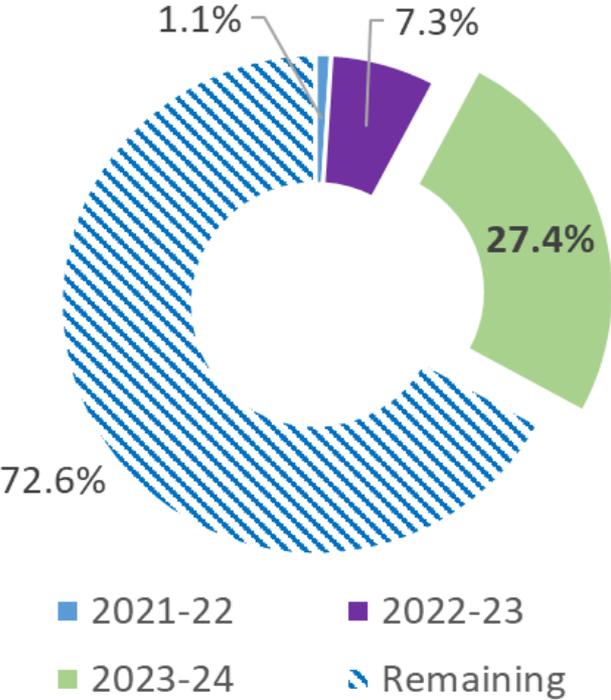
- Wing Wood, Wing
- Bury Farm, Amersham
- Grange Farm, Hazlemere
- Billet Field, Wexham (21/22 planting season)



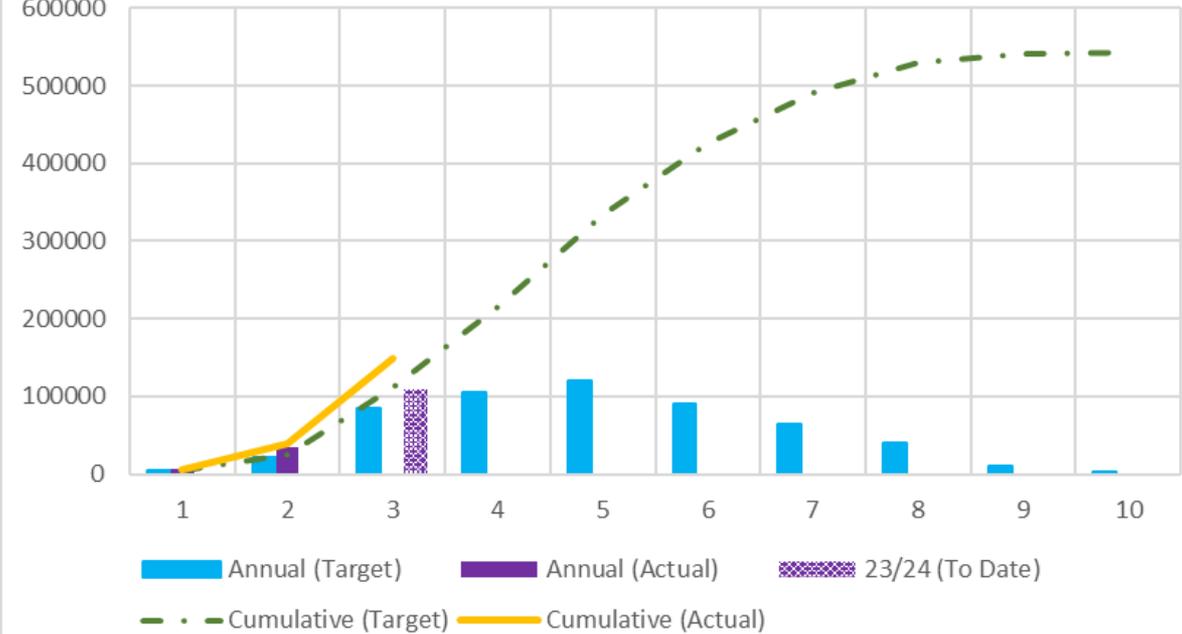
**Size of marker proportional to trees planted*

3.5 CLTPP: Rate of planting to date

Annual Planting (% of Target)



Tree Planting: Actual v Targets



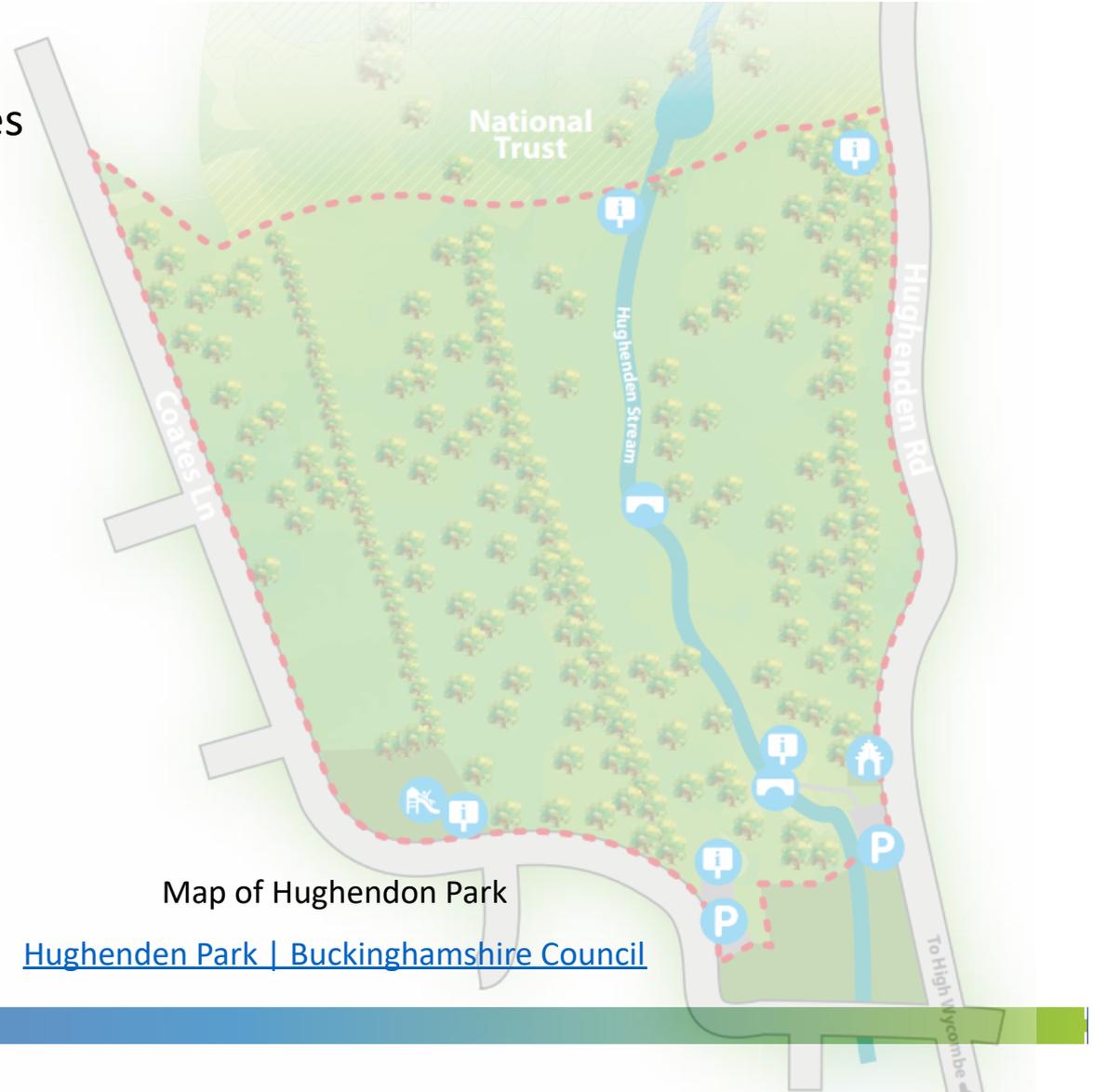
35.8% of the 543,000 target met

4 Parks, Green Spaces & Street Trees

108 trees planted across
Country Parks & Green spaces
including:

- Hughendon Park
- Cherry Tree Way
- The Rye
- Higginson Park
- Legacy AVDC land

We have also replaced or
planted ~ **400 street trees**



Map of Hughendon Park

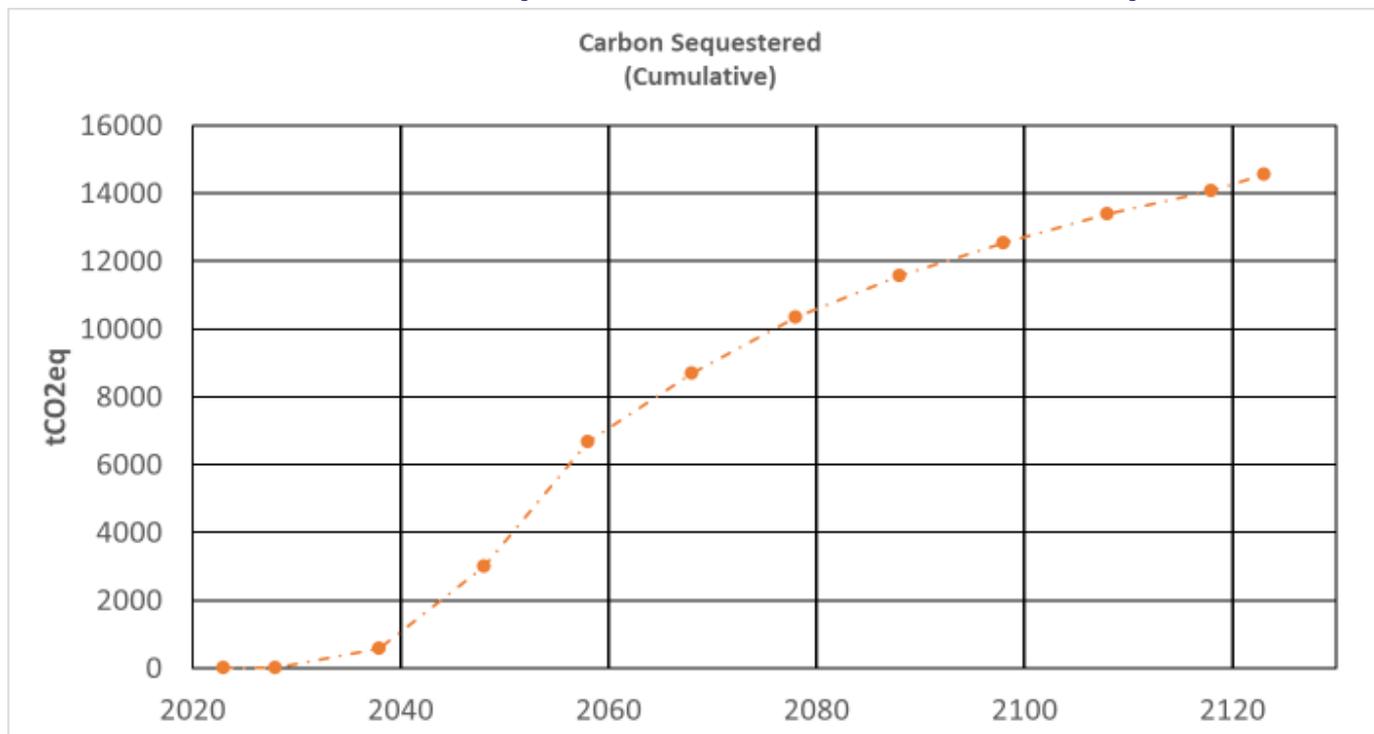
[Hughenden Park | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

5 Natural Capital – The Woodland Carbon Code

All of our Council Land Tree Planting sites are registered with the **Woodland Carbon Code**

- Accounts for carbon sequestration for new woodland creation
- Sits on the UK Land Carbon Registry (contributes to UK's national targets for reducing GHG emissions)
- Verification after 5 years and then every decade until final verification 100 years after planting
- Woodland Carbon Units accrued after verification
- Units will be used to offset the Council's own emissions
- [Home - UK Woodland Carbon Code](#)

5.1 Natural Capital – Carbon Sequestration



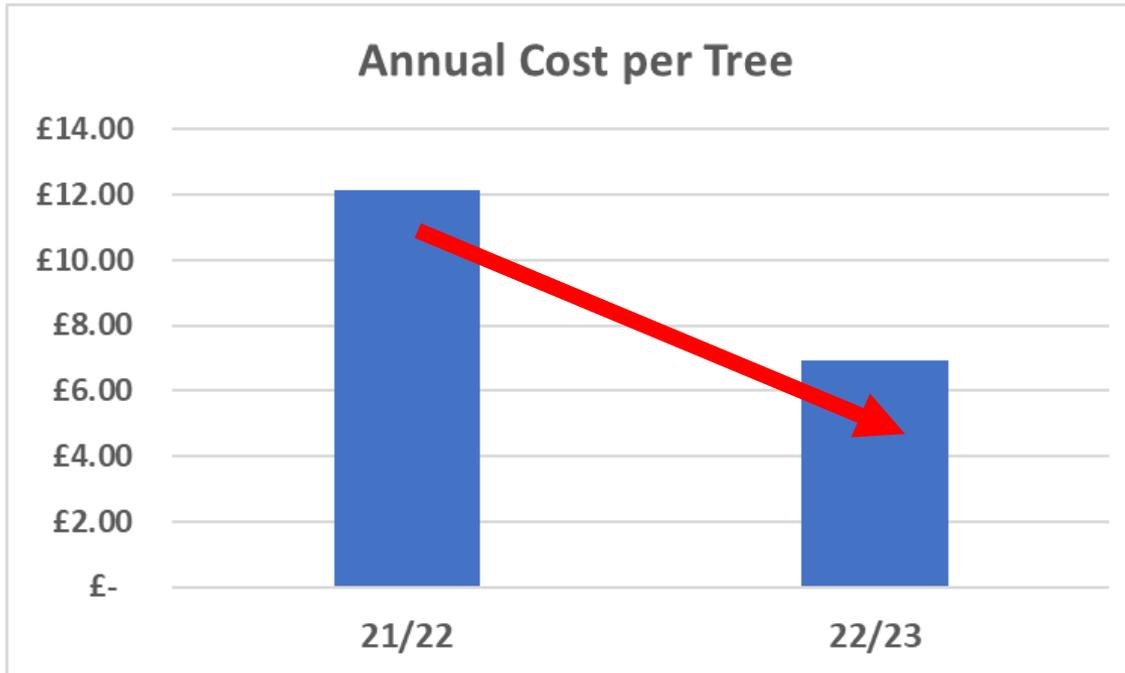
Graph (left) shows forecast carbon sequestration from Wing Wood, Bury Farm & Grange Farm

Over **14,800 metric tons of CO₂eq** is estimated to be sequestered by 2124. This is equivalent to the average emissions per year of ~9,800 new homes*

*Source: ONS data for 2019

6 Council Investment in Woodland Creation

Capital works spend on **woodland creation** under the contractor model (Billet Field, Bury Farm & Grange Farm) of **£242,350**.



21/22 **average** cost/tree: **£12.13**

22/23 **average** cost/tree: **£6.91**

Total allocation to tree planting from the Climate Change Fund: **£3.29m**

Spend to date: **£318,642**

43% reduction in cost/tree in year 2 of the programme

6.1 Funding Awarded to Date

Funding	Amount (£)	Site
EWCO	28,380	Billet Field
EWCO	105,693	Bury Farm
EWCO	110,186	Grange Farm
EPREC	1,765	Billet Field
LATF 21/22	203,000	Various
LATF 22/23	184,000	Various
Total	633,024	

We have secured over £633,000 in funding to support tree planting in Bucks

INFO:
We have also received £144,000 of **capacity funding** from the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund

8. Conclusion

The last 12 months have seen tree planting across Buckinghamshire:

- Across all scales
- With extensive community involvement
- Hundreds of volunteers
- Many, varied stakeholder groups
- Over 145,000 trees planted
- Forecast to sequester over 14,800 tCO₂eq by 2124

