



Phase 1

After two months of planting, the first phase of Limington in Leaf has come to a close. In total, we have planted a solid 437 trees in 11 different locations within Ashington, Draycott and Limington. So, how did we get here?

437

trees

11

sites

3

villages

Limington in Leaf is a project steeped in ambition. We live in a very pleasant landscape, but one that is, ultimately, lacking in biodiversity, frequently flooded, and, less obviously, one that has a lower air quality than most rural environments. This observation is not made to invoke a feeling of pity; rather, it is an acknowledgement that change is required. In fact, it is a driver. To me, there is nothing more motivating than to know that it is possible to create meaningful change for the benefit of all. And the solution is clear; we must dedicate more space and time to the preservation of our surroundings.

In December, a well-attended and productive meeting was held in St Mary's Church. And there was one particular emotion: surprise. The level of support – both financial and logistical – available for those hoping to plant woodland is truly staggering. Charities and governmental bodies offer their services to communities and projects of all sizes, from providing a mere dozen trees to urban communities, all the way to not only funding hectares of woodland, but providing large annual sums to enable the management of new plantations and to make up for what would otherwise be lost income for landowners. In short: it has never been easier to plant woodland. So why shouldn't we?

The next few months progressed unnervingly rapidly; a successful application to the Woodland Trust saw 210 trees donated to Limington in Leaf; a further application to Reimagining the Levels saw 150 more water-tolerant plants provided at no cost to the community; and donations began to trickle in, from a local tree surgeon, residents, and even the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Whilst land access issues produced some delays, we swiftly managed to get a total of 397 plants in the ground at Draycott Farm, Manor Cottage, and in various locations on the new Manor Farm, all protected, and many mulched. And in fact, out of our land access problems came a brilliant opportunity; a community tree bank. The forty saplings offered recently on Limington's Facebook page were all allocated within two days, a sure demonstration of local enthusiasm.

I am deeply excited to see the result of this season's huge effort. It has provided our team and community with invaluable experience; given us an opportunity to commemorate for one last time our late Queen, under the Queen's Green Canopy; and has begun a process of essential environmental regeneration.

However, more exciting still is the prospect of further planting to come. With greater experience, time, and awareness amongst locals, we can look to scale up the project enormously. A fantastic number of people provided very hands-on help in our project to bring fibre to the village. This project, unarguably, is a better cause. So let's make this a true community project; let's make Phase 2 as large and as special as it can be.

What can you do to get involved? Here are some simple steps:

1



Scan this QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/CQaqVRCH1GMg7J3U6> and sign up to receive our emails. That way you'll know about upcoming meetings, planting opportunities and other important events in good time. You'll also be sent an email newsletter every now and again.

It'll also help us know who is interested!

2



Scan this QR code or visit <https://arcg.is/1KLr5T> to pledge any amount of land, from space for a single tree to multiple hectares. It will determine where we plant for next season but is not legally binding in any way. Landowners will not be charged for any costs planting may incur.

3



Scan this QR code or visit <https://limingtoninleaf.uk> to visit our project website, where you can view blog posts, general information, 'meet' the team, and more.

Finally, I would like to express my personal gratitude to all of those who have made this project a reality thus far, including landowners, volunteers and the charities who provided us with the trees. This would not have been possible without you, so thank you.

Peter Marsden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'pm'.