

# ELMS FOR ALL

## Nature recovery for all our children

Imagine a young child growing up and visiting the tree they helped to plant near their home or school. Imagine them seeing it become a mighty tree in the landscape and home to insects, birds and animals.

## A new baseline

Our nature-poor environment in England (our current 'baseline') is not normal or inevitable. We must not accept it. Nature can recover if we give it our help. We can enjoy a 'new normal', a new baseline, if we work to allow trees, plants and animals to come back into our lives.

## Working together

We are working with others throughout Wiltshire who know how to plant and source the trees, can help obtain funds for larger tree planting projects and offer support to communities to maintain trees after they are planted.

## Our goals

- Encourage local groups and communities to plant Elms or other iconic trees and look after them as they grow.
- Help groups buy the Elms and plan where to plant.
- Use the Wiltshire Climate Alliance network to celebrate and publicise what has been achieved, providing materials and practical support.
- Raise the profile of local groups working to green their 'patches' to increase interest in volunteering.
- Enhance community engagement.

## Our resources

WCA has access to:

- Experts including from Wiltshire Council's team promoting tree planting ('GAPS').
- Suppliers of trees.
- Information about funding.
- Information about what, where, when and how to plant in your local area.
- People who have planted trees before and are willing to help.
- Information on the target areas for planting.

## What will planting trees do?

- Make our towns and countryside more beautiful and pleasant.
- Encourage birds, insects and water life.
- Soak up storm water and reduce flooding.
- Filter pollution and purify the air.
- Capture carbon dioxide heating our planet helping to steady the climate.
- Improve water quality in our rivers.
- Provide fruit, nuts and berries.
- Give shade during extreme heat.
- Reduce soil erosion and agricultural chemical run off into rivers.
- Improve our mental health as we spend time in nature.

## How to get involved

Join our regular WCA community meetings online or email us with the subject Elms For All.

For more information, please visit the Elms page on the Wiltshire Climate Alliance website:

[www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/trees](http://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/trees)

NOTE: WCA prints only on carbon neutral paper whereby the supplier or our printer has paid a little more to contribute to the preservation of woodland to offset the effect of carbon generated during paper manufacture. We issue most of our communications digitally but appreciate that this does not reach everyone.

## Why we care about Elms

English Elms were always loved for their height, spread and shape against the horizon. Many artists and poets captured their grandeur and beauty in paintings and verse. But they were also part of normal life and their wood was used for furniture, tools and boatbuilding. Now they represent a painful loss, but one we can work to reverse, as we can with other species under threat.

### A sad story

Dutch Elm Disease came from Europe circa 1900 and then made several further visits. It came back dramatically in the 1960s and 1970s killing Elm trees right across the UK. Millions of dead trees lined the roads and the skylines. Noble old trees riddled with disease had to be felled. Although Elms can grow back the problem remains. The wood boring beetles that carry the damaging fungi inside the trees are still here.

### Hope for the future

Huge efforts have been made to find Elm trees which are still in good health. These survivors form the basis for the disease resistant varieties and hybrids which are now available to plant. Together we can create a network of Elms across Wiltshire. There is hope for the future of this wonderful tree.

## Tree...mendous

- Elms can grow to 30m high,
- They can live more than 100 years
- Their flowers and leaves are eaten by the caterpillar of the endangered White-letter Hairstreak butterfly



### About WCA

Wiltshire Climate Alliance (WCA) is a campaigning umbrella organisation for local groups and individuals whose common characteristic is that they care passionately about the challenges of climate change and the impact of human activity on the environment. WCA currently represents over 30 groups – visit our website to find your local group.

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*Planting and cherishing significant trees in our communities*

