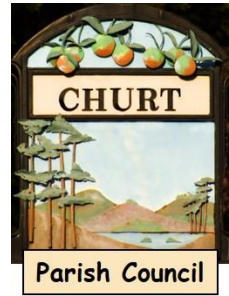




Net Zero for Churt



Let's create a distributed wood!

Churt Jubilee Wood

“Plant a tree for the Jubilee” is an initiative suggested by Prince Charles to plant a tree as a lasting legacy to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year. You can find full details at www.queensgreencanopy.org/.



And of course, planting a tree is a great way to help sequester carbon emissions. Through photosynthesis trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and wood. By ensuring that the trees planted are native broad leaf species you can help to preserve the UK's environment and biodiversity.

The sequestered carbon accumulates in the form of biomass, deadwood, litter and in the soil of woodlands. Trees also support adaptation to the impacts of climate change, through shading and flood prevention. They can also provide significant benefits in terms of air quality, biodiversity, health and wellbeing, education and the economy.

We are fortunate to have a number of high-quality, cell-grown year-old saplings (together with canes and spiral guards) in four different species, very kindly provided by Carbon Footprint so that Churt households can each plant their own tree. We also offer you local native broadleaf trees which have been carefully potted up by village residents to share. Together we will create a distributed wood.



Of course trees need space to grow and it is important to think about the size and spread of the trees and be aware of buildings, services and other plants nearby to ensure that damage cannot occur from the roots and canopy as the tree grows. There are many different varieties of trees, all of which have different characteristics, purposes and needs (soil, water, nutrients). Most trees can grow in a range of conditions, though some will prefer particular soil types. These cell grown or potted trees can be planted now whilst the soil is warm.

Whilst our first priority should be to reduce our household carbon emissions, planting trees is a way of offsetting some of the carbon emissions which we cannot eliminate. But what if you have no space for trees – and let’s face it not many will have enough space to offset all their carbon emissions. The Carbon Footprint website has a helpful calculator for you to work out your household carbon emissions and offers a number of carbon offsetting projects

By supporting their international tree planting projects, you can compensate for your environmental impact, protect wildlife and benefit local communities. Carbon Footprint offer opportunities for you to plant trees around the world; UK, across Europe; Africa; North and South America; and Australia. Check them out on their website at www.carbonfootprint.com



Which kind of tree shall I plant?

You will find details and photos of the types of trees that we have available in separate information sheets but here is a summary:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Final Height	Approx growth rate
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	40 metres	30-60 cm a year
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	7-9 metres	30 cm a year
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	10 metres but can be pruned	30-60 cm a year
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	15 metres but can be pruned	10-15 cm a year
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	20-40 metres	50 cm a year but can be controlled by pruning
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	8-15 metres	20-40 cm a year
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	15-20 metres	40 cm a year
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Up to 35 metres	Fast growing – can be coppiced
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	15 metres	Reaches full height in 30-40 years
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	18-25 metres	20-40 cm a year

**Please send us a photo of your tree being planted – or after planting.
Send to churtenvironment@gmail.com**

Planting Guide

The Queen's Green Canopy website has a good video on how to plant your tree linked from www.queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/plant/ and Carbon Footprint also have a good video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXu8mgkkk4w&t=7s

Begin by preparing the surrounding ground. A happy tree will have plenty of light and water, so remove any overgrown weeds, especially grass which will compete with the tree for light, nutrients and water. The pit planting method is outlined below together with advice on fitting a spiral or tree guard to protect it.

1. Clear the planting area of all weeds and debris.
2. Dig a hole deep enough to fit in all the tree's roots. Keep the soil close by ready to refill the hole.
3. Adding well-rotted organic matter such as horse manure or compost will help to improve poor soils.
4. Water both the bottom of your pit and your cell grown or potted sapling. Allow the water to drain away before planting.
5. Place the tree inside the hole, keeping the base of the stem level where the roots begin with the surrounding ground. It is very important that the roots but not the stem are in the soil.
6. Holding the tree steady, refill the hole with the soil you initially dug out. Firm up the soil to make sure there are no air pockets – this will help prevent frost developing during the colder months.
7. With the tree upright and firmly in place, press the cane into the soil a few inches away from your tree's base, taking care not to break any of the roots.
8. Place your spiral around the cane and sapling or fit your tree guard over the tree and attach to the stake. Push the guard or spiral into the ground slightly, this will keep your tree safe from unwanted pests.
9. Give your sapling a thorough watering after planting.



On-going care

Once planted, your tree will need some care and attention for a few years; this will mainly be weeding around the base to reduce the competition for nutrients and ensuring your tree has enough water.

To avoid accidental damage, make sure to communicate, so all those involved in maintaining the space are aware of the tree you have lovingly planted!

Weeding

Weeds compete with trees for light, nutrients and water so keep at least a meter diameter weed-free. Your trees will need all the nutrients they can get to survive. Be careful though as it is easy to damage a tree, especially with weeding tools such as strimmers. A great way to reduce the likelihood of weeds growing and to retain moisture is through using “mulch”. There are different types of mulch but also avoid a build up of mulch around the stem of the tree.

Watering

Whips planted will require little additional watering, though be sure to keep your tree watered in hot weather, especially in the first two years. The bigger the tree planted, the more water the tree requires. For a 10 foot tree in very dry conditions, for example during the summer months, water twice a week.

Check Your Tree

By keeping a close eye on your tree, you will be able react quickly to any unwanted developments. To prevent it being toppled in strong winds, check your guards and stakes are still placed firmly in the ground. Remove any grass that has started to grow inside the guard and any pests; having the guards should help with pest reduction.

Years Three to Ten

As your tree grows, eventually the spirals or guards will split. Before they begin to disintegrate, remove and dispose of them responsibly, recycling where possible. The spiral provided with your sapling is biodegradable. As your tree grows, further larger scale protection may be needed, for example if the tree is in an area frequented by grazing or browsing animals. DIY protection methods are just as good as commercial products. For example old fine mesh chicken wire secured with a single wooden stake makes an effective protective cage or green garden mesh can also be effectively mounted.

