



# Coed Caerdydd Cardiff's Tree Canopy Expansion Initiative (APSE Presentation Feb 2026)



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd  
Working for Cardiff, working together



# Background

Coed Caerdydd -  
Cardiff Cities ambitious, holistic,  
and innovative project with the  
objective of increasing the tree canopy  
cover from 18.9 % to 25% by 2030.

Commenced in November 2021  
Initially funded by NRW /Welsh Gov  
(ENRAW) Woodland Trust. Trees for Cities.

Project Team consisting of 2 full time staff  
(Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator)  
Supported by Park Rangers and Volunteers  
(members of the public, community groups, Social enterprises etc).



# Contents

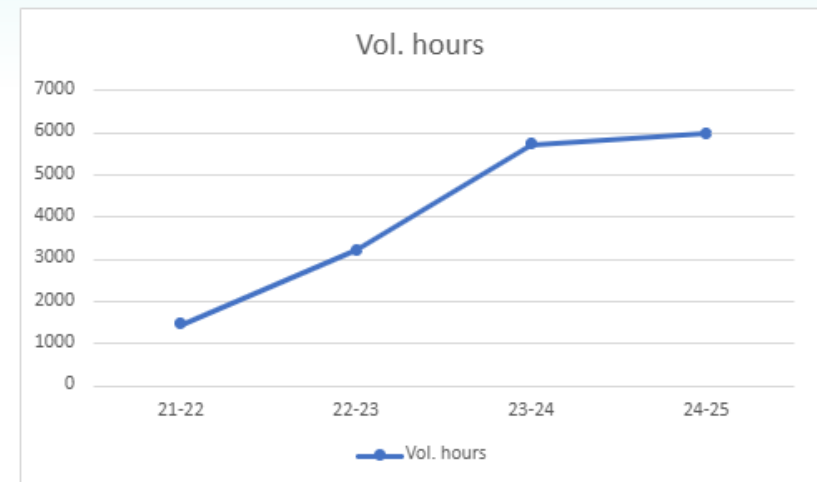
- Project achievements
- Tree planting (24/25)
- Lessons learnt and opportunities
- Site monitoring and maintenance
- Tree nursery
- Training and community events
- Tree donations
- Forward planning



## Project achievements and outcomes (November 2021 – July 2025):

- Planted over **118,500 trees** in approximately **370 sites** – additional **28ha** new planting
  - \* **180 parks** and open spaces
  - \* **100 streets** and verges
  - \* **60 schools** and educational settings
  - \* **35 community**, Public Service Board and Community Council
  - \* **12 privately** owned sites
- **3,767 “semi-mature” trees**
- Average **82% successful establishment**
- Approximately **17,000 volunteer hours** generated through tree planting, nursery, and aftercare events
- **Collaboration** with Council teams and external project partners

Ely Wells, before planting and three years on...



## Tree planting (November 2024 – March 2025):

- **36,526 trees** were planted in over **200 public sites** the 2024-25 season
- Key outcomes:
  - \* **100,000th** tree milestone
  - \* Reintroduction of the **Gabalva apple**
  - \* Completing the **next phases** of planting / maintenance
  - \* **1,424 semi-mature** trees planted – including over 280 street trees
  - \* Approximately **3km** of new hedgerows
  - \* Further non-native trees for climate adaptation seasonal interest
- **114 community planting events**
- **2,166 volunteers** including residents, community groups, schools, and businesses





## Lessons learnt and opportunities:

- **Early / annual engagement with Ward Members**
- **Use of contractors**
- **Maintenance and inspection implications on Arb team**
- **Stump grinding delays and difficulties of planting replacement and new **street trees****
- **Training and upskilling teams**
- **Canopy target**
- **Very few complaints**
- **Expanding tree nursery**
- **Strengthened relationships with internal teams**  
( Action plan developed with Highways Dept.  
Close working with Regeneration, Housing,  
Education, Transport etc)



## Site monitoring and maintenance

- Average **82% successful establishment** and around **42% of sites** showing all newly planted **trees status as “healthy”** (summer 2024)
- Summer 2025 monitoring completed on over 130 sites, including:
  - \* **Removal** of approximately **200 support stakes**
  - \* **Pruning** around **400 trees**
  - \* Held **7 Tree Guardian training events**, attended by 39 volunteers
  - \* Overall trees are establishing well
  - \* Some issues with vandalism and drought stress
- **Orchard and tree information boards** installed on 10 sites
- **Over three quarters** of newly planted **sites** (325 / 374) have registered **Tree Guardians**, including:
  - \* **204 individuals**
  - \* **63 schools**
  - \* **57 community groups**
  - \* **21 private** groups or individuals



## Tree nursery

- **144 volunteer sessions** have been held to date with **volunteers** contributing **3,450 hours** to caring for and growing on trees
- Tree nursery activities focus on:
  - \* **(spring) lining out stocks** for growing on spring – summer
  - \* **(summer) weeding and watering**
  - \* **(autumn) collecting tree seeds** for growing our own stocks and lifting trees in **preparation for the tree planting** season
  - \* **(winter) taking in tree stocks** and preparing for planting events
- Base for training events and wellbeing sessions
- Wildflower and other habitats, no chemicals, recording wildlife
- Improved volunteer welfare facilities, tools and equipment, semi-permanent tree seed growing area
- Exploring **expansion of the tree nursery** to improve logistics and capacity for growing on trees



## Tree training and community events

- **42 community training events** delivered, including:
  - \* Tree identification (summer and winter)
  - \* The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory
  - \* Tree Guardian
  - \* Orchard pruning
  - \* Nature celebration events (including bug hunts and Bioblitz)
  
- Participated in and facilitated **57 consultation and networking events** with project partners and community groups



## Tree donations

- Around **5,000 trees** donated to **households**
- Over **4,000 trees** donated to **private landholders**
- Around **2,500 trees** donated to other **Council** teams
- **“Whole street” donations approach** piloted 2024/25 with Westmoreland Street, Canton
- Expanding “whole street” donations and species mix for households, including fruit trees



# Forward planning

- 2024- Cardiff Council provided Core funding for Coed Caerdydd ensuring its continuation.
- Continue **monitoring and maintenance** previously planted sites
- Continue **scoping** sites and **stakeholder feedback** on suggestions
- **Schools and private land**
- **Street trees** different approaches – including replacement trees, container planting, household donations
- Social value donations...



# Social value donations

- Sustainability of the project
- Limited sites to deliver **memorial trees**
- **Flexible and inclusive**
- **Respond to demand** (private and individuals)
- **Tailor to specific projects** (e.g. street trees)
- Setting up webpage **pilot**, working with finance, legal, admin and web team





# Thank you for listening

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