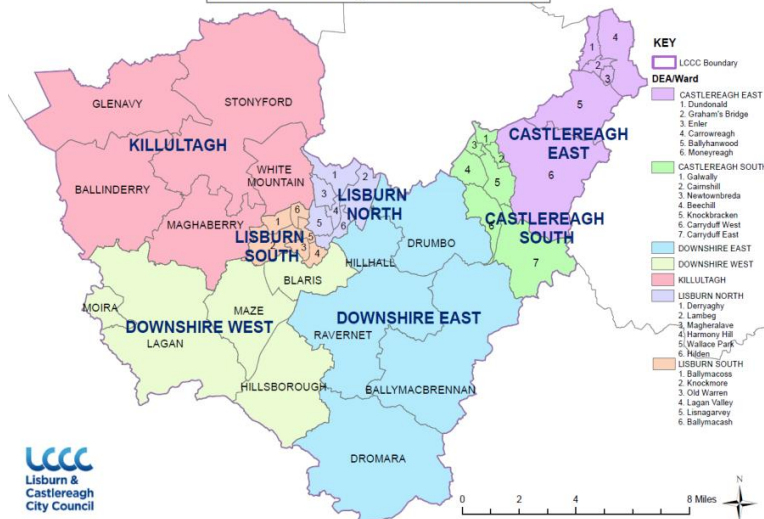# The Big Tree project

Background

Lisburn & Castlereagh District Electoral Areas

- Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with less than 9% woodland cover.

- The Republic of Ireland (11%)

- The UK (13%)

- European Union (38%).

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) area has the lowest levels of tree cover at just **3%.**

- Brexit

- Emergency Tree Fund

What is the Big Tree Project

A project created with help of the Emergency Tree Fund (ETF)

Key Objectives

- Creation of a Sustainable source of UKISG trees using peat free methods.

- Increase tree cover within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area woodland creation program.

- Restoration of ASNW and PAWS sites. Extensive invasive species removal programme.

- Engage our wider community through a community engagement Officer to help educate and encourage support for the programme

The Journey so far

Main areas

- Build our team

- Tree Nursery

- Woodland Creation

- Woodland Restoration

- Community Engagement

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Our Team

- Head of Service

- Parks Manager

- Tree & Woodland Officer (Recruited through funding)

- Community Engagement Officer (Recruited through funding)
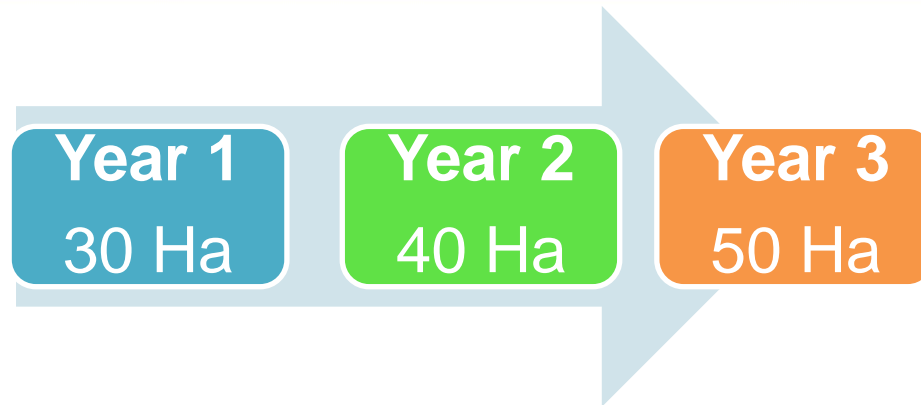
- Nursery Team

Tree Nursery Development

Before

Tree Nursery

140,000 seeds sown

Tree Nursery

Tree Nursery

Woodland Creation

Year 1
30 Ha

Year 2
40 Ha

Year 3
50 Ha

Aim to plant 10,000 trees & 1000m hedging per year over the next 10 years.

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Woodland Creation

Site Name	Hectares	No Trees	Hedge (m)	Hedge no trees	TOWS	Total Cost	Funded by
Drumlough Recycling Centre LCCC	16	25600					TBC
Moss Road	8	12800					TBC
Dagger Road / Scout Site	7	11200					Translink
Glenmore phase 2	1	3500					LCCC/Daera
Killeaton			150	30	93		LCCC
Hill St	0.8	700			35		LCCC
Billy Neill		70					
All seven DEAs and LVI					100		
Hillsborough roundabout					70		LCCC
Lisnabreeny	4.97	7952					National Trust
Derriaghy Glen	2	2500					LCCC
Glenmore Island	1.2	1800					LCCC
Billy Neill					31		Forget me not focus group
Glenside Recycling depot	6.9	11040					NWP
Moat Park					23		
Glenmore Community Orchard					25		
Whilta Cresent					5		
Castle Gardens					4		
River Rd	1	1300					School Group LCCC
Castlereagh Hills Golf Course	1.5	2500					LCCC
Moira Primary School	0.2	350					School Group LCCC
Aberdelaghy wood	1.5	2000					LCCC
Stoneyford	20	32,000					Woodland Trust
Loughmoss					30		LCCC
	48.07	115312	150	30	416		

Woodland Restoration

Woodland Restoration

Hillsborough Forest Park

Woodland Restoration

Derriaghy Glen

Woodland Restoration

Completed 2022/23

✓ **Derriaghy Glen – 4 ha December 2022**

✓ **River Road, Lambeg – 1 ha Sept 2022**

✓ **Glenmore Parkland Trail - 0.5 ha AWR site**

Completed 2023/24

❑ **Glenmore 1ha**
❑ **Aberdelghy Wood 3ha**
❑ **Hillsborough Forest AWR site 2ha**

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Engagement Summary

Engagement Type	Info
13 Public Events	Walks, Tree ID, bulb planting, park events
17 Schools	Woodland clean up, seed collecting, tree planting, tree ID
9 Long term community volunteers	Tree planting, AWR, bulb planting, tree nursery
10 Corporate Groups	Tree planting, AWR, seed collection
11 Summer Schemes	Seed planting, tree ID, nature activities
5 Charities	Tree planting
Lagan Corridor Community Consultation carried out	Meeting groups

Community Engagement

Challenges Facing the Project

- Source Funding

- Locate land to plant trees

- Other priorities for Land

- Provide trees at a sustainable cost

- Pest control

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The Future

- Continue growth of the tree nursery – Increase revenue – become self-sustainable

- Engaging landowners

- Increase political support

- Train and enhance our team's skills to increase productivity levels

- Build on working relationships with Woodland Trust post ETF & other organisations

- Become involved and support tree planting projects within our area.

- Lagan Corridor Project

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Woodland Expansion & Lagan Corridor Project

- Establish new native broadleaved woodland across the council area
- Connect 16 fragmented habitats along the Lagan Valley Regional Park AONB
- Connect fragmented communities in areas of high social deprivation.
- Play a key role in various ecosystem services i.e., carbon, air quality and reducing flooding.
- Enhance local biodiversity.
- Provide access to open space, trees and woodland that will promote health & well-being