

Ovington Parish Council

OVINGTON TREES

2025 REPORT

The project has continued at pace this past year. We were successful in gaining a grant from Northumberland CC Climate and Environment Fund. This has paid for the launch of our website www.ovingtontrees.co.uk . Remaining funds are to be used to create way markers and information boards along the arboretum route.

Tree planting has been undertaken along each of the major footpaths comprising the arboretum walking route. In addition, working with local landowners, more trees have been planted along field margins. Some trees that did not take two seasons ago have been replaced. We expect about 10 to 15% of planted trees will succumb to extreme weather, animal predation and aggressive overgrowth by the likes of bracken and brambles. The worst areas for overgrowth are being tackled. In the summer of 2024 contractors helped to cut back overgrowth from the new hedgerow along the River Tyne between Ferry Landing and Ovingham Schools.

Community engagement has continued with many volunteers helping with tree planting – for which we are extremely grateful. Their massive contribution has enabled us to plant a total now exceeding 4000 trees.

An event was held – Creating nature journals. Attendees learned about the project and how to create nature journals using fine liner pens and watercolour. The event started with a short walk along the arboretum route observing nature for inspiration.

The Project Manager has given talks about the arboretum to local community groups to increase awareness of the project.

Outstanding action

- We are seeking planning permission to install way markers and information boards
- A contractor has been appointed to help design and install way markers and information boards when planning approval has been gained
- Fund raising is needed to cover the full cost of way marker creation and installation. The NCC grant will not cover all costs involved. We also need to raise funds to pay contractors for expertise and power tools work.

Volunteers

We would love to hear from anyone who is keen to help with trees maintenance or fund raising. We have some lovely ideas for a 'social media' campaign but lack the skills to deliver this. Anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Anne Hudson, Project Manager anne.hudson@live.co.uk