

OCTOBER 2026

newsletter

BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

Let's help double tree
cover



A TALE OF TWO NEW WOODS FOR BRIDPORT, EACH WITH PUBLIC ACCESS. TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND TREES TO WALK AMONGST. TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND TREES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, PROVIDE SHADE AND HELP WITH FLOOD PREVENTION.



Isabel Cox, her 14-month old son Freddie and some of the 6,500 saplings she's planted - Big Moor Woods - at Highlands End.

Welcome to Big Moor Woods & Mower's Mead Wildlife Lake



This woodland was created as part of a long-term rewilding project at Highlands End Holiday Park. We have planted 13 species of trees and shrubs here, with the aim of creating wildlife habitats and enabling visitors to experience nature.

To minimise disruption to wildlife, please keep to the designated paths and keep all dogs on a short lead. Feel free to use our nature watching hide to observe birds, insects and plants.

Paths shown in white are public access footpaths and can be used year-round. Paths shown in yellow are classed as "permissive" footpaths. There is no intention to dedicate them as public rights of way.



Funded by
UK Government



This site is great for picnics, to be quiet amongst nature and a lake and is reachable from Bridport by public footpath, as well as being available to visitors to Highlands End Holiday Park. You can also park cars near the Martins Bar and walk down on a new footpath which is wheelchair accessible.

A team of people planted the site - in four separate areas - in January 2025 and the trees, apart from some early deer damage, have survived the 2026 drought well, are head height and reaching for the sky. There are Field Maples, Hawthorns, Wild Cherry, Common Alder, Pendunculate Oaks, Goat Willow, Spindle, Small leaved Limes, Hornbeam, Rowan, Sweet Chestnut, Hazel and Crab Apple with the lake a centrepiece and a hide to observe nature. They are growing on land only marginally useful previously for

agriculture. Isabel, who farms 300 commercial ewes nearby, will not be grazing stock in the new woods, which will be mowed once a year to start with. She's passionate about wildlife and very pleased to be able to provide a wild place for visitors to Highlands End who might come from inner city environments without any natural habitat. "It's a really special space to be in," says Isabel, Highlands End Business and Farm Development head. We agree.



Meanwhile, a couple of miles to the North, landowner Victor Crutchle is preparing ground for the biggest planting of new trees close to Bridport within living memory. No less than 18,000 in a deer-fenced area of 10 hectares, just north of the River Asker and east of the old railway line at Lodors.



Victor and a new high deer gate he has made, ready for installation.

The deer fence - which saves on the cost of individually guarding trees - is being made ready for planting to begin in December. In

theory, it can be used again once the trees are established on sloping, sandy land close to the upper reaches of the Asker. The site is more than a mile in length. Local schools, young people and the public will be involved in some planting sessions, to be arranged. Watch this space. And then watch the trees grow - a mixture strong on Sweet Chestnuts, Oaks, Cedar, Lime, Birch, Field Maple, shrubs for pollinators and with some Scots Pine for the hilltops, following a local tradition.



The site, showing beginnings of the deer fence.

Here in town, we're gifting to **Edible Bridport** two Walnuts, five Hazel, five Cobnuts and a Mulberry to their site near St. Cecilia's Allotments, opposite St. Catherine's Primary School.

They have just installed a pond, have been growing vegetables over the summer and distributing same, have a shelter and noticeboards. There's a lot interest in this from local children passing along the footpath leading to the bridge over the Brit. Good luck to this new project. Here are Sheri Ahmet, (left) and Clare Balchin of Edible Bridport planting one of the Walnuts on 22nd October.



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Here's an article from the Bridport News about a local tree enthusiast partly responsible for the Forest School movement.

<https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/26441766.woodland-space-litton-cheney-dedicated-helen-day/>

And a newsletter from the growing **Trees for Dorset**

<https://preview.mailerlite.io/emails/webview/2706011/201746511330018867?signature=3392ccfd4b97348092e65558f8d26b4a8b36fb20d7cd8d50f422ff8df6d96b0>

That's all for now but look out for our free fruit tree offer, probably in December.

Joe Hackett ... Co-Ordinator, Bridport Tree Planting